

Two Days After Tomorrow

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Summary: She was royalty. He had a secret. She wanted to fight. He wanted freedom. They were never supposed to meet, but fate is funny that way, isn't it.

## 1. Only the Beginning of the Adventure

**\*\*Yeah! New story! Hope you all like it, I know that a bunch of you were really looking forward to this, so here it is. Please review and tell me what you think! If you have any ideas I'd love to hear them!\*\***

Far away in a place unknown to humans, is a kingdom. This is the great dragon kingdom of Darkoba, ruled by the Night Furies.

At the time this story takes place, the kingdom is ruled by the Night Fury king, Avedis, and his queen, Nyla. The king and queen had two daughters and a son. Their son, Joel, was a brave warrior well on his way to becoming a knight and the future king. Their eldest daughter, Serene, was a pleasant girl who respected and was respected by everyone.

Lastly was their youngest daughter, Athena.

Athena was considered the most beautiful girl in the kingdom at a young age. She had the perfect shade of scales, which seemed to be so black that they would gleam dark blue in the moonlight. Her eyes were the perfect shade of light forest green, and her wings were built specifically for speed and agility.

So as you might have suspected by now, our story starts with her.

Athena bounced through the courtyard inside the walls of the black castle. She flapped her wings and jumped up to the strong branches of the oak tree in the centre of the courtyard.

Athena looked over the space with her intelligent eyes. Her brother, Joel, was training with her uncle, the head of the army. Her sister, Serene, was walking around the courtyard with their mother, who was teaching her how to hold her wings when she walked. Athena had never really cared about things like that. She wanted to see what was beyond the village boundaries. She didn't care about posture, and who to say what to and how. Her mother and sister strived for perfection. She was more laid back. She just wanted to have fun and explore. Even if she was only seven, she knew that there was a greater fate for her than being cooped up behind the black walls of the castle.

That was another thing, the walls. Even with the walls, Athena felt defenceless. She really wanted to learn how to fight. She didn't want to be the damsel in distress to be saved by the prince. She could save herself, or so she wanted to. This is why she was watching closely at the fighting moves that her uncle was teaching Joel.

"Athena. Come over here darling." Nyla called her daughter. She glanced away from Serene to see Athena climbing up to the thin branches at the top off the oak tree, ignoring her mother's words. "Athena!"

Athena was completely ignoring her mother's calls. Instead she balanced on the branches as she peered over the edge of the wall. The breeze felt good against her scales. Over the wall you could see the town where the villagers lived, the forest, and far off in the distance, the mountains she so desperately wanted to explore. There were legends about the mountain's forest. Strange creatures that lurked there. The stories got even crazier when people told legends about the lands on the other side of the mountains. Most people were scared off by the stories, vowing never to go to the mountains. Athena just did the complete opposite of the norm, vowing that one day she would go over the mountains and explore the lands of legend.

\*\*\*\*\* 4 hours later\*\*\*\*\*

Athena gazed over the dimly lit kingdom from the window of the black castle. In the room, her parents were dealing with some political issue, and their uncle was telling stories to her siblings.

\_I've never been outside the village before. I wonder what it's like out there. \_She thought to herself. It was true. Her parents had occasionally taken their kids out into the village, but she had never seen outside the boundaries of the central village.

As a result, she didn't know how to fly yet, despite being seven. Most dragons learned to fly when they were very young, some even before they could walk, which made absolutely no sense, but it still happened.

Athena went to the door of the room, glancing over her shoulder at her family. The king and queen had all their attention on their work, and her siblings were to absorbed in their uncle's story to pay attention as Athena quietly snuck out of the door into the castle gate yard.

The guards at the gates, a Nadder and a Nightmare, were very casual

about their job, seeing as the kingdom had been at piece for 45 years. They were simply talking about things, playing poker, and taking an occasional drink. Athena easily snuck past them through the shadows.

Once she got past the village, Athena reached the farms, and past the farms was the forest, close to the base of the mountains.

Athena walked through the forest, looking at her surroundings and exploring. She was chasing a grey squirrel when she almost fell off a cliff.

She looked over the edge of the cliff. There was a large crater like hole in the ground. A tree was growing in to, with space to hide from the rain under its roots. A small spring fed lake was in one side of the cove. There were several paths leading down to the cove so you could access it by foot.

When Athena made her way down to the cove, she noticed that there were coals from a fire still burning and there was a fish lying on the ground. She went over to the fish and was about to eat it when she heard a voice behind her.

"I wouldn't do that if I were you."

Athena whirled around to see a Night Fury about her age hanging upside down from a branch of the tree. His eyes were a more acid green compared to her light forest green ones. He jumped off the tree and glided over to her.

"It's got worms. You can tell because it's belly is bloated. He pointed out.

"Who are you?" Athena asked cautiously, never taking her eyes of the strange boy.

"Who are you?" he asked with a slight smirk.

"I asked you first." Athena retorted.

"I asked you second." He answered back, this time with a full smirk.

He laughed and introduced himself. "I'm Talon." He introduced. "What are you doing here?"

"What?"

"This is my cove. What are you doing here?" he asked again.

"Exploring." Athena answered simply.

"How did you get here? You can't see this place form the air."

"Well, I was walking through the forest and I almost fell into this cove."

Talon looked at her weirdly. "Why'd you walk?" he asked,

bewildered.

Athena looked at the ground. "I can't fly." She mumbled quietly to her feet.

Talon held in a laugh. "Why not?" he managed to get out.

"I was never taught. I'm not supposed to leave home." She answered, getting slightly defensive.

"Why not? Where do you live?" He asked, curious about the girl who had managed to find his cove.

"A place." Athena said shortly.

Talon frowned. "Ok. What's your name? I told you mine."

"Athena."

Talon's eyes widened. He started bowing.

"Please don't. Everyone does that. You have no idea how irritating it gets."

Talon stood up straight, his ears perked up in interest. "So you're the princess of Darkoba?"

"Yeah. It's not as fun as you think it might be. There are too many lessons and you always have to be perfect. You don't get to have a lot of freedom."

"Well, what do you want to do?" Talon asked.

"Well, I'd really like to learn some fighting moves. Oh, and fly of course!"

"I can teach you that stuff!" Talon offered.

"Really?!" Athena asked in excitement.

"Yeah!"

So Talon started to teach Athena how to fly. Both seven year olds took off into the night air and flew over the forest and silent, sleeping farms.

\*\*\*\*\* 10 years later\*\*\*\*\*

The two seventeen year old Night Furies landed in the moon lit cove in the forest at the edge of the mountains. One with acid green eyes, and one with forest green eyes.

Talon pounced at Athena, who quickly counter attacked with a tail swipe, just missing his head. This went on for a little while, until they both got hungry and decided to catch some fish.

"You're really getting good at fighting Athena." commented Talon to his friend.

"I learned from the best." replied Athena.

"You know the rumours are true." Talon said casually.

"What rumours?" Athena asked.

"That you're the most beautiful girl in the kingdom." Talon smiled cheekily at her.

"Aww! Thanks." Athena answered, poking him in the shoulder with her tail. They both laughed. Athena looked up at the sky.

"I should probably get back. My parents will start questioning me if I get back to late." She said. "They questioned me enough the first night that I flew back." She added, referring to the night a few weeks after they had started meeting when she had flown back to the castle for the first night and surprised her parents.

"Alright, well, I'll see you tomorrow then?" Talon asked hopefully.

"Definitely!" Athena said enthusiastically. "Oh yeah, one more thing."

"What?" Talon asked right before he was tackled to the ground by his companion.

"I win." Athena smirked down at him. The two friends laughed and went their separate ways home. As Athena flew, she realized she didn't actually know where Talon lived, even after they had known each other for 10 years.

Athena flew back to the castle, but was greeted by a not necessarily welcome sight.

Her were parents standing angrily at the doors waiting for her.

**\*\*So, I hope you guys like the first chapter. Yes, I know, it's very long, but all good stories start with a long chapter, so it's ok. And no, Talon is not Toothless, I decided. But Toothless will come into the story, somehow. I just haven't figured it out yet. If you have any ideas, comments, or questions, please send me a message or review them below. I hope you all like the story. Have a great summer! I'll update soon! Please review.\*\***

## 2. Uncovered Secrets

**\*\*Okay guys, here's the second chapter to TDAT (short for Two Days After Tomorrow). I really hope you guys like this chapter! Enjoy!\*\***

Athena flew over the castle walls and over to her parents. They were obviously not pleased.

"Hey mom, hey dad." Athena said nervously through her teeth. "What's up?"

"You're late." Nyla said sternly.

"Sorry mom, I had stuff to do." Athena said.

"Stuff?" Nyla said, unconvinced.

"Yeah, you know. Villagers to check up on, town to patrol, maybe a few foods to try. The usual." Athena said, trying to be as casual as you could possibly get in front of the king and queen.

"Come talk with us." Her father said, turning around and walking towards the office. The queen followed. Athena rolled her eyes and followed reluctantly. The three of them walked into Avedis's office.

"All right, what did I do this time?" Athena said, slightly annoyed, and thinking that her sister had blamed her for something stupid again.

"You didn't do anything." Avedis said.

"Well, whatever it was, Serene had better, wait what?" Athena stopped mid-sentence. "Then why am I here?"

"Well, first off, your brother is, as you know, getting married in a few days." Nyla started.

"Yeah, to that Ava girl from Shakola. What does this have to do with me?"

"Well, Ava's brother will be one of the people accompanying her on her trip here." Her father said.

"So?" Athena said, bored.

"So, you should get to know him." Her mother told her. "He's a nice boy. You can get married, you'll be the queen of Shakola."

Athena looked at her other in dismay. "Are you trying to marry me off to some guy I don't even know?!"

"No dear, just think you should get to know him better, and then marry him." Her mother smiled, trying to convince her daughter. "He and his parents have already agreed to this. And so do we and I think you should too. It would be a good future for you."

Athena took a step back from her parents. "And you support this?" she asked her dad, looking for someone to back her up.

"I was the one who suggested it." The king answered simply.

Athena backed away from her parents in horror, shaking her head. "You guys are unbelievable." She muttered, and then flew away from the castle through one of the giant open windows.

"What do we do now?" The queen sighed.

"Let her go, she'll be back. She'll just sneak in later and try to keep to herself until tomorrow." Avedis reassured his wife. She nodded, and they went back to the final preparations for greeting the group from Sharkola the following morning.

\*\*\*\*\* with Athena \*\*\*\*\*

Athena flew over the village and back to the cove. When she got there, she paced around for a bit, muttering curses under her breath, and lashing out at invisible foes, but finally settled for shooting a huge fire ball into the lake. When she turned around after watching the water sizzle, she crashed right into Talon.

"Ah! Stop doing that!"

"What?" Talon said innocently, pretending he didn't know what she was talking about.

"Why are you still here?" Athena asked, laughing a little bit. Just a tiny little giggle.

"Couldn't find anything better to do." Talon shrugged.

"It's been like half an hour."

"So, you're back too."

"Good point." Athena finally gave in.

"So," Talon said, starting a fire and lying down. "Why are you so mad?"

Athena lay down across the fire from him. "My parents are trying to marry me off to some stuck up prince from Shakola." She explained.

"Ah, Finley?" Talon asked. Athena nodded. "I heard that last time his family visited Darkoba, he tried to sneak into a certain princess's closet." He smiled.

Athena laughed. "Yep, I'll give you three guesses on who that princess was."

Talon laughed too. "What'd you do when you found him?"

"Slapped him in the face and almost broke his nose." They both laughed.

"Thanks Talon."

"For what?"

"You always know how to cheer me up." Athena smiled at him.

"Hey, what are friends for." Talon said. There was a hint of shyness in his eyes, something very rare for him.

The two looked up at the starry sky for a while, something they did allot. "Hey, where do you live?" Athena finally asked.

"I live on the west farmlands." Talon answered.

Athena sat up. "That's impossible. The west farm lands have been abandoned and empty for 45 years since the Bleak Wars. It's been over

grown by forest at the base of the mountains, no one lives there."

Talon looked into her eyes and smirked. "I know."

**\*\*What is Talon hiding, and what does Finley have to do with the story? Find out in the next few chapters! (Oh yeah, the abbreviated name for the story is TDA (\*\*\*\*T\*\*\*\*wo \*\*\*\*D\*\*\*\*ays \*\*\*\*A\*\*\*\*fter \*\*\*\*T\*\*\*\*omorrow) and you might want to remember that. Hope you liked it, please review!\*\***

### 3. Calm Before the Storm

**\*\*Yay! New chapter! And up so soon! Hope you enjoy it! Please review!\*\***

**\*\*Recap:\*\***

**\*\*\*That's impossibleâ€¦| no one's lived on the west farms for 45 years since the Bleak Warsâ€¦| no one lives there." \*\***

**\*\*Talon looked her in the eyes and smirked.\*\***

**\*\*\*I know."\*\***

"Then how do you live there?" Athena asked, getting up and creeping towards him.

"Classified, I can't tell you." Talon replied smugly.

Come on, please?" Athena begged.

"You should go back, it's getting late. Your parents might get worried." Talon tried to change the subject.

"I'm not leaving until I get an answer." Athena responded stubbornly.

Talon rolled his eyes. "Fine, I promise that I'll have come up with a way of telling you that won't hurt you by tomorrow night. Okay?" he gave in.

"Fine. Wait, why would it hurt me?" Athena asked again.

"You'll find out tomorrow." Talon replied mysteriously.

"Okay, you sure you can't just tell me now?"

Talon shook his head. "You're full of questions tonight aren't you princess." He laughed teasingly.

"Don't call me that." Athena reacted to the nickname in exactly the same way Talon knew she always would.

She got up and flew to the top ledge of the cove. She turned back to look at her best friend. "Goodnight Talon." She said, smiling at him.

"Goodnight Athena." Talon smiled back. And then they both flew home,

or at least, Athena thought he flew home. With Talon you could never really tell what he was planning to do.

Athena flew over the dimly lit town on her way back to the castle. One of the merchant's that she would buy fruit from waved kindly at her. She nodded back at him. When she arrived back at the castle, she snuck in through the kitchen window, grabbing a roll of sushi on her way out. She had always had a soft spot for sushi, which is why the kitchen always had some in supply. She snuck back up to her huge room and curled up in her bed. Even though she knew everything was going to be okay, she couldn't help but cry herself to sleep.

\*\*\*\*\* the next morning \*\*\*\*\*

The next morning, Athena woke up to her friends, and personal staff, Satin and Sari and Savannah. They were three Nadder sisters who were always cheerful and talkative. Satin was dark purple with light blue markings, Sari was yellow with light green markings, and Savannah was pink with aqua blue markings. They looked at Athena expectantly, but kindly. She couldn't help but smile.

"I thought you guys were going to let me sleep today." She said.

"You're mother told us to wake you early for the arrival of the people of Shakola." Sari replied.

"Alright." Athena said, getting up for the preparations. "So, are you guys excited for the Wedding?" she asked. And that was all that was needed to not need to talk for the next 2 hours.

After two whole hours of preparations, Athena went downstairs to the throne room. There she found her parents settling the last issues with the head cook, her sister examining herself in a mirror, as usual, and her brother pacing nervously near the doors. Athena went towards her brother, since she got along best with him.

"Hey, what's up?" she greeted her brother. Joel looked up his pacing to see his littlest sister coming towards him.

"Hey Athena." He said.

"You're nervous." Athena observed.

"Whaat, noo." He said, trying to calm himself down, unsuccessfully.

"Relax, you'll be fine. Ava is really nice; you two are great for each other." Athena reassured her brother. This seemed to calm him down. "And it's going to be easy for you because you two actually like each other. Mom and Dad are trying to set me up with Finley." Athena complained.

"Good luck with that. If you ever need someone to fight him to the death, call me." Joel winked, going back to his joking, funny self again.

Then, there was a commotion heard, and Nyla came over to them. "Come on." She said, motioning for them to follow.

"What's going on?" Joel asked.

Nyla stopped and turned to them. "The royals from Shakola have arrived."

#### 4. Finley

**\*\*Hey! Here's the newest chapter! Hope you like it! Please Review! And a huge thanks to everyone who has review! You all get a virtual pie!\*\***

Everyone from the group from Shakola came through the gates into the courtyard. There many servants and commoners, as well as many knights. Then there was the king and queen, Finley, Ava, and their younger siblings, Chloe and Connor. They all came in and respectfully greeted the royal family of Darkoba.

It was decided that since it was only mid-morning, everyone would meet in the east gardens for lunch in a few hours. This meant that servants worked together to, well, serve. The king and queen of Shakola, Aiden and Nadia, went with Avedis and Nyla to update each other on their countries. Joel was showing Ava the gardens that would soon also be hers, and Chloe and Connor went with Serene. That meant that Athena was stuck with Finley. She would have rather lived in a pit full of vipers.

"Hey, how you doin'?" Finley asked, walking up to her.

"Fine." Athena answered shortly, moving back a little to get Finley out of her space.

"So, watch ya wanna do?" Finley asked curiously, taking a few steps closer to Athena. She backed away more.

"I want to go, um, check the kitchens to see how the food is coming along." Athena said quickly.

"Great, I'll come with you!" Finley said.

"Oh, um, mother said that I shouldn't bring guests down to the kitchen. " Athena said, thinking quickly. "\_I have to get rid of him." \_She thought frantically to herself.

"Oh, nonsense Athena!" Nyla said, coming back into the courtyard at \_just \_the right time. "Of course Finley can go down to the kitchens with you." She chirped. Athena rolled her eyes. The queen was just never going to give up.

"Shall we go?" Finley said.

"Fine." Athena answered. The kitchens were a few levels below the main levels. Below the kitchen level was mostly storage room and empty rooms that made a complicated maze. As they went through kitchens, Athena made a plan.

Finley and Athena left the kitchens, and Finley was about to go upstairs, when Athena turned left down one of the corridors.

"Oh, where are we going?" Finley asked, for the fifth time that

day.

"Well, you are going upstairs and I am going to raid my secret stash of sushi that I have in one of the storage rooms." Athena said.

"Why can't I come with you?" Finley asked. Athena had, of course, already known Finley was going to ask this, and had come up with a plan. Everything was going the way she wanted it to.

"Because then y secret stash of sushi wouldn't be a secret, and you might tell someone about it, or take from it yourself.

"Yeah, who would I tell?" Finley asked.

"You could tell the cook, who doesn't know that I've been sneaking sushi from the kitchens. And he would tell my parents, and then I wouldn't be allowed to go down to the kitchens anymore, which would make me sad. And you don't want me to be sad, now do you Finley?" Athena lied.

Finley looked at her. "All right, I'll wait here. Be back soon." He said. Athena turned, smiling in triumph as she walked away. Then she looked back at Finley. "If I'm not back in five minutes, come and find me." She added. Finley nodded and winked at her. She fake smiled, but almost gagged on the inside.

As she made her way through the maze of stone corridors and storage rooms, she smiled to herself. If, no, when Finley came to find her, he would get lost very quickly. Athena, however, new the lower levels of the castle like the back of her paw.

She came on of the rooms that stored fish and looked around, making sure there were no servants watching her. Then she pushed a specific brick, which was slightly smaller than the rest, into the wall. The walls moved to reveal a dark tunnel. Athena climbed into the tunnel, and the wall closed behind her. She looked through the cracks in the walls to make sure no one had seen her, and then made her way through the dark tunnel.

The castle was full of tunnels like this one that ran through the walls and floors. Not many people knew about them. Athena herself only knew about three. One went from her bedroom to the back of the kitchens, which had been useful on many occasions, and another ran from a place in the wall by Joel's room to the roof top of the tallest tower at the east end of the castle.

This particular tunnel ran from the lower levels to the back of the library. So, as you can imagine, this is where Athena went. She moved a brick, and a bookshelf opened like a door just enough for her small figure to go through. When the bookshelf closed, you never have guessed that there was a tunnel behind it.

The back of the library was one of Athena's get away spot, where she went when she wanted to be alone, besides the cove. She had made it more comfortable by smuggling in a bunch of soft blankets and unimaginably comfortable pillows. Surrounding her were forgotten books hat told stories of humans, mythical creatures and lands, and some of a huge dragon that lived in a mountain and controlled the minds of smaller dragons that flew to close to its lair. There were

also many books containing myths and stories about the Legendary Mountains.

Athena lay down on the make-shift bed and started reading a new book she had found and smuggled out of the main part of the library. It was a book about the legend of Elayne, the legendary dragon queen of the Legendary Mountains that was said to be able to wipe out entire armies with a single flick of her tail. Athena had been searching for weeks for the book.

She heard footsteps through the library and turned to look in between book shelves to see her mother talking to the royal book keeper. Athena focused her hearing on their conversation, like Talon had taught her to.

"If any of the royal children come in here, tell them to go to the east gardens." Nyla told her. Then, the queen turned and headed towards the gardens.

Athena sat for a minute to make sure her mother was gone, then got up and quietly moved over to the section that held books on politics and economy. Then, she went to the door.

"Princess Athena!" I didn't see you come in!" The royal book keeper said.

"You must have been in the back. I was just reading for my studies." She said.

The book keeper nodded. "Queen Nyla was just here. She saidâ€|"

"Yes, I heard." I was just heading out. Thanks." Athena said. She nodded good-bye to the royal book keeper as she left for the east gardens.

When she got there, the servants were just bringing out food. The kings and queens were talking about something boring, and Joel was introducing Ava to Serene. Chloe was looking for Finley. She ran up to Athena.

"Have you seen Finley? You were with him right?" Chloe asked.

"I haven't seen him." Athena said, not revealing that she had gotten Finley lost under the castle and left him there.

Eventually, word spread that Finley was missing. The two kings, princes, and a few knights, went looking for him.

"Did you try and get rid of Finley?" Nadia asked suspiciously.

"No." Athena lied flawlessly. The visiting queen bought it, and Athena got away with everything.

Eventually, though, Finley was found. Everyone was busy preparing for the wedding all afternoon, so Athena didn't run into him again until late that evening when she literally ran into him.

"Good evening my lady." Finley bowed.

"What do you want Finley?" Athena asked impatiently.

"Nothing at the moment. Want to go walk in the gardens tonight?"

"Oh, no. I'm busy tonight." Athena said quickly. No one could find out about Talon. She went to walk away, but Finley moved in front of her. "What are you doing then?" he asked.

"Stuff." Athena said, trying to move away again. Thankfully, her brother came around the corner at that exact moment, and Finley backed off. Athena escaped with her brother, and went to the courtyard. She climbed the tree and was about to take off, when she heard an all too annoying voice behind her.

"Where are you going?"

Athena sighed and turned around. "I'm going for a fly, like I do every night."

"Can I come?" Finley asked, climbing up the tree as if it was a given that he was joining her. He could just not take a hint.

"No Finley." Athena said, frustrated.

"Please?"

Athena turned around. "Go away." She said. Finley was too stunned at being rejected to follow her as she took off.

As usual, Athena stopped at the merchant's street and bought some sushi for her and Talon, and then headed to the cove. When she flew in, Talon was waiting for her by a fire.

"You're late." He smirked.

"Sorry. I had to run away from the one who shall not be named." Athena responded.

"Ah, how's that going for you?" Talon said, motioning for her to join him by the fire.

"Ugh. He's so annoying!" Athena said, proceeding to tell Talon about the day's events.

Both Night Furies were unaware that they were being watched.

## 5. Spies and Secrets

**\*\*Yay! New chapter! Secrets will be revealed, new enemies made, and sushi will be eaten. Please review! (You will get a free cupcake!)\*\***

Both teens snacked on the sushi Athena brought.

"So, you gonna tell me?" Athena asked expectantly.

"Tell you what?" Talon said playfully.

"You were going to tell me about where you lived tonight." Athena said.

"Oh right, I promised didn't I?" Talon said.

"Yep." Athena laughed, flopping over too one side on the grass.

"Wellâ€¦" Talon started. Then they both turned their heads where they had heard a twig snap.

"I don't think that that's a squirrel." Athena whispered.

"No, it sounded too heavy to be a squirrel." Talon whispered back.  
"Stay here."

Talon got up and silently made his way to where the twig had snapped behind a rock. He pounced over the rock and a lot of growling was heard.

Athena got up as she saw Talon tackle a black figure. They fought for a bit. Eventually, Athena joined the fight. She and Talon circled the figure.

"Who is he?" The black mass said with Finley's voice. She growled.

"Well look who decided to join us." Talon snarled. "He's uglier than I thought he would be." He added with a smirk.

"Why did you follow me?" Athena snarled at Finley. "I said to leave me alone!"

"I wanted to know where you were going!" Finley said.

"What part of go away did you not understand!" Athena growled.

"What? Am I not allowed to know my future queen's habits?"

Athena would have killed him right there, but Talon held her back.

"Listen you leave now! Or I set her loose and you never get to see the light of day again." Talon warned.

"And if I don't?" Finley taunted. Talon let go of Athena just enough for her to pounce towards Finley. "Alright! I get the point! I'm going!" Finley surrendered. He took to the skies and flew away.

When he was gone, Talon let go of Athena. She growled in the direction that Finley had gone.

"It's not safe here, we should go." Talon said.

"Go where?" Athena asked.

"We could go to a cave I found under the Bay Cliffs." Talon suggested.

Athena thought for a moment. "All right, sure. Lead the way."

Athena followed Talon to the cave. It was hard to find unless you knew where to look, and wasn't visible from the air, but the view over the ocean was amazing, especially on that night with the full moon reflecting off the water.

"I found this place when I was caught in a storm while fishing. Talon said as they landed.

"Soâ€|" Athena said, while shooting a fire ball to make a fire. "Will you tell me now?"

"Sure." Talon said, lying down across from her. "Where should I start?"

"Well, start with where you live on the west farms.

"Okay." Talon said. "I actually live beyond the west farms. There's a small mountain with a cave system in it that you can see if you look really closely." He drew a map in that sand.

"So you live alone." Athena said.

"No, there are actually about 17 more of us." Talon said.

"Us?"

"Yeah. We're kind of like a group, except we don't have any rules or leaders or anything like that. We just live in the same place, share food and water, and fight together. If we want to leave, we can whenever we want to." Talon explained.

"That's cool."

"Yeah, it kind of is now that I think about it."

"So, what about food? And water?" Athena asked.

"There are streams running through the forest, and there is a small lake in one of the caves. We usually just swim in the lake, but if the streams dry up it's a good alternative. For food we hunt in the forest, and fish, obviously. The fields from the farms are still there, even though they're over grown, so we harvest the grains from those too."

Athena nodded and yawned.

"Am I making you bored?" Talon teased. They laughed. "You should go home."

"Are you sure about that. I mean Finleyâ€|"

"There's no guarantee that Finley will say anything."

"But you know he will, don't you?" Athena said knowingly to her friend.

"Fine, if Finleyâ€|"

"When."

"\_If\_, Finley does tell your parents, then you fly back here." Talon said. "I'll wait for you."

"Thanks." Athena smiled at her friend. She was about to fly away when she stopped.

"What?" Talon asked.

"I'm just wondering if I should loop around and make it look like I'm coming back from the cove." Athena said.

Talon smiled. "I taught you well." He said.

"'Course you did." Athena said, and then flew away into the night, following her plan.

She flew over the town like she usually did, and landed in the courtyard. Everything looked perfectly normal, until she walked through the door.

## 6. False Treachery

**\*\*Here's the next chapter! Review and get a free watermelon! (I love watermelon! XD\*\***

"Hello Athena." Finley smirked evilly. Beside him were Avedis, Nyla, Aiden, Nadia, a few knights, her uncle Aleron, and Joel.

"Finley told us that you've been sneaking out with some boy at night and telling us that you fly over the village instead. " Avedis said.

"What, no! I seriously just fly over the village and buy from some of the merchants! Even ask Cecil, I bought sushi from him just after I left." Athena protested.

"Yeah, and then you go visit your secret boyfriend." Finley said, still with his evil smirk.

"What's your problem?" Athena yelled.

Both queens looked offended. "A princess does not raise her voice Athena." Nyla said sternly.

Athena rolled her eyes. "Whatever, I'm going to my room." She said, heading out the door.

"Why are you going that way?" Nadia asked suspiciously.

"I'm going to fly up to the balcony and go in that way." Athena answered as calmly as she could.

"She's lying. She's going to run away to her boyfriend!" Finley said.

They all gathered in the courtyard behind Athena.

"How long have you been seeing this boy?" Her father asked.

"I don't know what you're talking about." Athena growled subtly.

"Finley said he was going to tell you where he lived tonight." Aiden said.

"Yes, and he said that you sent the boy to attack." Nadia added.

"I didn't send anybody to attack anyone!" Athena shouted, ignoring the looks her mother gave her.

"Oh really. Then what happened after I left?" Finley sneered.

"Listen, you've got the wrong girl. You probably just followed someone else." Athena defended.

"No, I distinctly heard him call you Athena." Finley said. "And I don't know about you, but I don't think that there's exactly a large amount of Night Furies named Athena."

"You don't live here." Athena said.

"No, but I'm pretty sure I'm right." Finley said. Behind him, Athena's parents nodded in agreement with him. "I'm also pretty sure that there aren't many Night Furies named Talon." Finley said, smirking again in triumph. Athena flinched at the venom in his voice when he said Talon's name.

"I wonder what would have happened if I had stayed a bit longer? What I would have heard. What you two would have done." Finley said.

In that single moment of time after that final sentence, Athena lost it. She pounced at Finley, using her claws to tear a huge scratch in his shoulder. She bit into his wing, fracturing it under the pressure of her bite. He tried to fight back, but she was too quick. After more scratches and bites, and a dislocated forearm, the knights pulled Athena off, though she managed to slap Finley in the face first, making his mouth and nose bleed. She snarled at him, struggling against the knights.

"Say that one more time! I dare you!" Athena snarled at him viscously again.

Finley got up with the help of two more knights. He was bleeding a lot and would need medical care almost immediately.

"Take him to the healers." Avedis ordered. Nadia went with her son. Nyla went to explain what was happening to a very confused Serene and Ava, who had been in the door when the fight happened. Serene had never known her sister could fight like that.

Joel, Aleron, and the other knights released Athena, who was still growling.

"What's going on?" Her father asked, looking into her eyes. She looked away.

"Nothing!" She answered with hostility.

"My son is no liar! Heâ€|" Aiden began.

"Then you don't know your son!" Athena interrupted the visiting king.

Aiden was taken aback, but continued. "As I was saying, I don't think he would lie about information this important."

"Tell me now, Athena. Who is this, Talon, that Finley saw you with?" Avedis said. Athena just stared at him angrily. Avedis sighed. "Take her to the spare room next to yours and see if she'll speak." He told his son.

Joel nodded reluctantly and led his sister away. He locked the door behind him and turned to his sister. "You going to talk?" he asked.

"Take a guess." Athena shot back at him.

He sighed. "We used to tell each other everything, you know. We never kept secrets. I even told you that it was me that almost burnt down the entire east farm lands. What happened to that trust?" Joel said.

"There are some secrets I have to keep, even from you." Athena said.

"Is what Finley said true? Did he really catch you with a guy named Talon?" Joel asked, with sadness in his eyes.

Athena looked into her brother's sad eyes for a second. "We're not together I swear!" She said quickly. Joel looked at her. "We're just friends." Athena said.

"So you admit you were with someone tonight?" He asked. Athena nodded.

"Is that how you learned to fly before Serene?" Joel asked. He came closer to Athena. "Is that how you know how to fight so well?"

Athena looked away from her brother.

"Those moves that you used take years of practice, Athena. I've been training to be a knight since before you were born, and I've never seen some of those moves before." Joel said. "Did Talon teach you how to fight?"

"So he taught me how to fly, how to fight, and how to survive in the wild. So what? What's the big deal?" Athena said, not looking at her brother.

"The big deal is that he could be dangerous, Athena!" Joel said. "If you go to see him every night on your little 'flies over the village' he could be gathering information to attack, or hurt you!" Joel sighed. "He was going to tell you about where he lived tonight, wasn't he?"

"I don't know what you're talking about." Athena said.

"What did Talon tell you?!" Joel said, raising his voice.

"I'm not going to tell you anything!" Athena yelled.

"Why not?!"

Athena looked at her brother. "Because if I do, you'll hunt him down and bring him back here. I can't let you do that."

Joel stared at her. "He's waiting for you, isn't he?" Joel asked. Athena didn't move, she showed no emotion. She just stared at him.

"Fine, I'll wait for you to escape, and I'll follow you to him. I know you'll find your way out of here sometime soon." Joel said, walking out and locking Athena in the room.

Athena waited a few minutes before easily picking the lock with a small dagger she found on display on the room's wall. She opened the door and walked out into the hall. She looked at the wall between the spare room and her brother's room, trying to find the right place on the wall. A servant, a pink Gronkle, came around the corner and gasped as she saw Athena.

Athena guessed that the word had gotten out about her "arrest". "Listen, I may have been locked up, but I'm still the princess. You tell anyone that I'm out, and I swear I'll get you locked up. That's an order, you understand!" She whispered. The Gronkle nodded frantically and continued her work, composing herself to make it like nothing had ever happened. Athena made a mental note to get the servant a raise when she regained her status as princess.

Athena finally found the right spot on the wall and opened the secret passage way, which she quickly jumped into. It closed just as Finley and Joel came around the corner. She moved away before anything could happen, and to give her a head start.

\*\*\*\*\* With Joel \*\*\*\*\*

Joel came around the corner of the hall towards the room Athena was in or probably out of by now, with Finley. Finley was being obnoxious as usual.

"I told you she was with him!" Finley bragged. He was bandaged in many places, a lot on his tail, and had a splint on his fractured right wing. He was limping badly, favouring his left front leg.

"Yes, Finley. You were right." Joel said impatiently, unlocking the door.

"Alright, let's see what else she'll tell us." Finley said, a little too excitedly. The door opened to reveal the empty room.

"She's gone." Finley said, dumbfounded.

"Told ya." Joel said.

"Now what?" Finley asked.

"Now you go and order guards to search the entire castle and village. She could still be nearby. I'll go look for her where I think she'll be.

"Ah, smart thinking, my friend." Finley complimented as he went to notify the guards of the prince's orders. Joel shook his head. How was that guy supposed to be king of a country?

\*\*\*\*\* back with Athena \*\*\*\*\*

Athena opened the door at the end of the tunnel and climbed up onto the roof top of the east tower. It was the tallest tower in the castle, and the perfect place to hide for a few moments before running away. She looked down to see guards heading out in patrols around the village and castle.

\_So they must know I'm out?\_ Athena thought.

She heard footsteps below her and heard someone come out onto the tower platform. She sighed and jumped down silently, knowing that it was her brother looking for her.

"Hello." She said.

"Hi." He responded "Look, you can either come back with me and tell dad everything willingly, or I can follow you and you can get into a whole lot more trouble, which will make things way worse."

"Those aren't any of the options I need." Athena said.

"Well, then I'll just have to take you back by force." Joel said.

"I can't let you do that." Athena said. Then she lunged with her tail, jabbing the pressure point on Joel's neck and knocking him out cold.

"I'm sorry." Athena whispered. Then she took off into the night.

## 7. Run Away With Me

**\*\*Here's the chapter! I think I might be uploading faster than I can write, so I might need a few days for the next chapter, but it will be up soon! Please review! Ideas always welcome! And even if you don't live in Canada, Happy Canada Day!\*\***

Athena flew to the cove and lit a fire, as a decoy, to offset the guards search. Then she followed the path she remembered to the cave.

When she got there, she saw Talon waiting for her. Beside him were two sail fish.

"Caught you some food." He said. "I know how much you love sail fish."

"Thanks." Athena nodded to him.

"So what did they ask you?" Talon asked, as if he already knew exactly what had happened.

"They locked me up and asked a lot of questions about you." Athena answered hesitantly.

"Like?"

"Where you lived, who you were, how long I'd been seeing you." Athena said between mouthfuls of fish.

"What else happened?" Talon asked.

"I attacked him." Athena said.

"You attacked him?!" Talon said, laughing a bit.

"Yep. Fractured his wing, dislocated his shoulder. Possibly gave him a concussion." Athena smirked.

Talon laughed. "He deserved it." He said. Athena nodded and yawned. "You should get some sleep. We've got to leave tomorrow." He said.

"Where are we going?" Athena said sleepily.

"You'll see when we get there." Talon said.

"Alright." Athena said, and ten fell asleep.

Talon went to the mouth of the cave to make sure that no one had followed Athena there. He turned to look at Athena. She was shivering and mumbling things sadly in her sleep. Talon sighed and came to lie down next to her. She stopped shivering and seemed to calm down a bit. Talon smiled at his friend, and then fell asleep.

\*\*\*\*\* The next morning \*\*\*\*\*

Athena woke up to the sun in her eyes and Talon sitting next to her, shaking her awake gently.

"Come on. Get up. We need to get food." He said.

"Then call Sari, she's always up early." Athena mumbled, not fully awake yet.

"Who's Sari?" Talon asked.

Athena looked up at him and then remembered where she was. "Oh. Sorry." She said, getting up.

They both flew out of the cave over the water. When they were far enough away to not be seen, Talon circled in the air.

"I don't suppose you know how to fish?" He said, even though he already knew the answer. Athena shook her head shyly. "Alright, I'll teach you." He said.

Talon spent the next hour teaching Athena how to dive for fish and how to grab the fish with her claws or teeth. Athena was a quick learner, and soon they were both happily diving in and out of the water at top speed.

When they returned to the cave at nightfall, they were greeted by the sight of Connor leading a patrol along the cliffs at the edge of the ocean, right above the cave. If they went back to the cave, they knew they would be caught.

"What now?" Athena asked.

Talon thought for a minute. "I know where we can go." He said, and flew towards the forest.

"Where are we going?" Athena asked, following him.

"Follow and find out." Talon answered. Athena flew in front of him. "Where are we going?" she asked again.

"Trust me. I can't tell you with all the patrols around here. You'll figure it out when we get there." Talon told her. Athena nodded. They flew through the forest, looping around past the cove. They could hear voices when they got close to it.

Talon looked at Athena and gave a silent signal to go into the trees. The two of them leapt from tree to tree until they were above the cove.

The cove was swarming with knights and guards. Just below the trees where Athena and Talon were stood Finley and Joel.

"We have to find her." Joel said, pacing back and forth.

"I know." Finley said, his wing still in a splint.

"No, you don't understand. She's in danger with that dragon, Talon. He could hurt her." Joel said.

"We'll find them both. You get your sister back, and I \_take care\_ of the Talon guy." Finley growled.

Joel nodded, and the two future kings split up and went to search with their troops. Athena and Talon moved away from the cove.

"Well we sure can't go back there again." Athena said.

"How do they know my name?" Talon asked.

"Finley must have heard it when he was spying on us." Athena answered.

"Exactly how much did you tell them about me?" Talon questioned.

"Nothing, I swear!"

"Athena?"

Athena sighed. "I told them what you taught me, that's it. Just like

I told you before." She answered. Talon nodded.

"Anything else?"

"Nope, that's all I said. They wanted to know where you lived though. And how you learned to fight, I think." Athena answered.

"But you didn't tell them anything except what I taught you?" Talon asked, making sure. Athena shook her head. "Good. Come on, we've got to go. They'll search the forest soon and I want to be far away when they do."

He led Athena through the maze of trees until they came to an open plain. The plain separated one forest from another.

"You wanted to go to places outside your kingdom? Here's your chance." Talon said over his shoulder. "Welcome to the Courtner Plain."

Athena looked around at the wide open space of tall grass. The grass was tinted a greenish yellow colour from the rising sun.

"It's an old overgrown farm. There's still a few types of grains left. Most of it is overgrown by weeds and grass through. Talon explained as they made their way through the plain. Athena couldn't remember seeing any of this farm on the maps in her father's map room, not even some of the older maps.

"I've never heard of this place." Athena said.

"That's predictable. This used to be the farm of Shane and Stacie Courtner, who were two of the biggest rebel leaders during the Bleak Wars. WE couldn't find a better name for it, so we just named it after them. Merchants and foresters will call it different names though. The king though, meaning your grandfather, wiped it off the map completely. Talon explained.

"So that meansâ€¦" Athena trailed off.

"You're not in Darkoba anymore. You're on the west farms, which means you're in my territory." Talon finished.

At the end of the plain was a forest. The forest went up into tall mountains that went so high you couldn't see the top of them.

"The Legendary Mountains." Athena breathed.

"Yep." Talon said. Then he started walking into the forest. "Stay close princess." He smirked.

"Don't call me that." Athena mumbled, following him.

They walked a bit further through the forest, until they were ambushed by Nadder spikes.

## 8. Safe Haven, Sort Of

**\*\*Hey guys! Wazzup! Hope you like this chapter! Enjoy!\*\***

**\*\*And a huge thanks tooâ€¦|.. (drum roll)\*\***

**\*\*BoltandMaybelle247\*\***

**\*\*LizzyLory\*\***

**\*\*Kasha  
Eliz\*\***

**\*\*Th3-Dragon-Lord\*\***

**\*\*Proud2beMexican\*\***

**\*\*SmokeyStorm\*\***

**\*\*xXSlyXNightfuryXx\*\***

**\*\*For reviewing almost/or every chapter! And thanks to everyone else who also reviewed! You guys are all awesome! Enjoy the chapter!\*\***

"Stop! Stay where you are!" a deep voice said from behind the trees.

"Hey! It's me! Stand down!" Talon shouted.

Six figures emerged from the bushes. A yellow Nadder, and orange and red Nightmare, a light blue Gronkle, a dark green Zippleback (counts as two), and a Night Fury that looked like a smaller version of Talon.

"Who's with you?" the Nightmare asked. He was the one who had spoken before.

"She's a friend." Talon answered.

"Who's she working for?!" The Nadder said, spikes pointing at Athena's face.

"Nakeya. Stand down." The Nightmare ordered.

"She's an ally." Talon said to the Nightmare. "She's one of us."

"Are you sure about that?" One of the Zippleback heads asked. The other joined in. "You're sure she won't betray us?"

"I'm sure." Talon said. The Nightmare nodded, then motioned for the Gronkle to come forward. He approached Athena with a piece of dark blue linen.

"What's he doing?" Athena said, being wary of the stranger.

"He's blindfolding you. Relax." Talon said.

"Why?"

"This isn't your place to ask questions." Nakeya said harshly. Then Athena could only see the dark blue tint of the cloth covering her

eyes.

"Don't worry. I'll guide you." Talon whispered in her ear. Then he led her through the uneven path of the forest. Athena could hear the footsteps and whispers of the dragons around her, and smell the forest and the scents of the dragons, but she was otherwise completely blind and had no idea where she was. They finally came to a stop after a while and there was a bright light as the blindfold was taken off.

"I think that's far enough." Talon said as the blindfold was removed. Athena blinked a few times until her vision came into focus. They were surrounded by thick forest, the leaves overhead partially blocking the sunlight, but still provided enough light to be bright.

"Where are we?" Athena asked.

"The whispering forest." Nakeya said.

"Why is it called the whispering forest?" Athena asked worriedly.

"I'll show you tonight." Talon said.

The group came into a clearing. There wasn't much in that clearing except for grass, a few small trees and bushes, and the side of a cliff. The mouth of a cave was in the cliff, a couple of meters away from the ground.

"Is that the cave you guys live in?" Athena asked.

"You ask too many questions Night Fury." Nakeya sneered.

Everyone moved through the cave into a large open space. The ceiling had caved in, leaving light free to stream into the crater. The dragons in the arriving group all split up to go to their own private caves.

Athena looked around at the other dragons in the crater. There were two more Gronkles, another Night Fury with purple eyes, a Nightmare, a Nadder, and a Zippleback.

"Whatever you do, don't look Tess in the eyes." Talon whispered to her.

"Who's Tess?" Athena whispered back.

"The Night Fury with the purple eyes that's glaring at you. She's got a bit of a problem with the princess of Darkoba."

"Which princess?"

"You." He led her through another tunnel to a smaller cave with a small fire burning inside it, keeping it somewhat lit and warm.

"So this is where you live?" Athena said.

"Yep. Home sweet home. I know it's not what you're used to, but it's home for me, for now." Talon said.

"What do you mean, for now?" Athena asked.

"You ask a lot of questions." Talon said. Athena rolled her eyes. Then Talon looked over into the shadows of the cave. "It's alright. She's not going to bite you."

A small Night Fury, about 10 years old, crept out from the shadows. He had the same acid green eyes that Talon did.

"That's Toothless, my kid brother." Talon said.

"Hi." Toothless said, eyeing the newcomer in his cave.

"Hi." Athena smiled back at the younger Fury. Toothless went around the cave and lay down on a ledge, watching Athena carefully.

After a while, the orange and red Nightmare came to the cave. "Talon, we're having a meeting." He said. Talon nodded, knowing what this meant, and got up to follow. "Bring the prisoner." The Nightmare added.

"She's not a prisoner." Talon said, motioning for Athena to follow. The trio made their way up to the main crater again. All the other dragons were there.

"So, Talon. Tell us why you have brought the princess of Darkoba to us." The other Nadder, a light green one, asked him.

"She's a friend. She needs a place to stay. Isn't that the entire point of this place?" Talon answered.

"She's the princess of Darkoba!" The purple eyes Night Fury, Tess, said. "She'll draw the guards here and get us all captured!"

"No one's going to find us here!" Talon said. "Dragons have lived here for 50 years without being noticed by Darkoba, and we aren't going to be found now!"

"She'll get us all killed!" Tess growled.

"Not if I kill you first." Talon snarled back. Their eyes turned to slits.

"Hey! Quit fighting! We have things to discuss!" Naakeya shouted, shooting spikes between the two Furies. They jumped back to avoid getting stabbed and poisoned.

"You're right. I shouldn't be fighting Talon." Tess said smoothly. "I should be fighting her!" Tess pounced at Athena, who quickly moved out of the way and prepared for a counter attack.

She never got the chance though, because a fire ball exploded between the two, causing both girls to jump back.

"Stay away from my niece!" A voice said from the shadows of a tunnel. A figure emerged and Athena's eyes widened in shock.

It was Aleron.

**\*\*You all remember Aleron right? Athena's uncle. Well, he was not just another side character. You shall all see what will happen soon! Please Review! ;)\*\***

## 9. New Friends, New Enemies

**\*\*Hey guys! Here's the next chapter of TDAT! I'm going to be travelling over the next few days, so the next update will have to wait until the 7\*\*\*\*th\*\*\*\*, hopefully you can hold out until then. Enjoy this chapter for now! Please Review! Ideas are welcome!\*\***

Athena looked at her uncle like she had just seen a ghost. The head of the royal guard, commander of the royal army, and the king's right hand man and brother, was with the rebels.

Tess backed off.

"Good, you've arrived." The Nightmare said. "Did you bring the others?"

"Of course." Aleron said. Satin, Sari, and Savannah came through the tunnel behind Aleron. Athena just got even more confused.

"Now, I know what you're thinking Athena." He started. "But all will be explained in time. Talon, why don't you introduce our guest to everyone?"

"Yes sir." Talon nodded. "Well, you already know Aleron and the three Nadder sisters, and Toothless." He said. "That's Nakeya and Felix." He pointed to the yellow Nadder and the Nightmare that had been talking.

He pointed to the Gronkles, blue, purple, and orange. "That's Stuart, Pippa, and Zack." Then he pointed to the light green Nadder and Nightmare. "That's Zaltana and Juliet." Next he pointed to the dark green Zippleback and the orange Zipplebacck. "They're Lucy and Hope, and Kyle and Karl." He paused. "And you've already met Tess." He added, glaring at the other Night Fury.

Felix stepped in. "What's the status in Darkoba, Aleron?"

"Everyone is looking for these two. I suggest we lay low for a while until things calm down." Aleron said. "Let me talk to my niece."

Talon nodded. Everyone split up to do whatever they were doing before the meeting, and Aleron and Athena went outside. The clearing they were in had a stream running through it, but other than that looked exactly the same as the one Athena had been in before.

"Now, I know what you're thinking. I've been lying to you and your family for your whole life, but you need to understand why I'm here." Aleron said.

"What's going on?" Athena asked.

Aleron sighed. "When you were born, you had a blue mark on your tail fin. It's still there; it's just faded darker so it's not that

noticeable. I knew what it meant, so I went to Zaltana. She's a sorceress, and she knows the legendary mountains better than anyone. She had helped people for 50 years to live in peace here instead of in the villages of the kingdoms. There aren't many left, but you've met who's here."

"What does any of this have to do with me? And why was I never told about my tail fin?" Athena questioned.

"Have you ever heard of the great dragon queen Elayne?" Aleron asked.

"Yes, but what does that have to do with anything?" Athena said.

"You're her descendant. You are the next great dragon queen of the mountains." Her uncle said.

\*\*\*\*\* A few hours later \*\*\*\*\*

A very stunned and shocked Athena walked into the cave, supported by Talon.

"So you passed out when your uncle told you who you really are?" Talon said.

"I guess." Athena answered.

"Well, it's a lot for a dragon to here. I mean, it would shock anyone to hear that they're the next \_immortal \_queen of the Legendary Mountains." Talon said.

"Immortal?"

"I'll explain later." Talon said. "You should get some rest. Any more questions you would like to ask, oh great queen of questioning?" Talon mock bowed.

Athena laughed, and then got all serious. "Why does Tess hate me?"

"Tess believes that she should be royalty no matter what. If she can't be the queen of the Legendary Mountains, she wants to be queen of a country. When she found out you could be both, she got jealous. If something happened to your brother, you would be the next queen of Darkoba, so she swore that if she ever got the chance, she would take the throne away from you." Talon explained.

"So she'll do anything to get me out of her way?" Athena said, making sure.

"Yeah, pretty much." Talon said.

"One more question. Were you sent to keep an eye on me by the group ten years ago?" Athena asked.

"No, that was purely coincidental. Only found out you were queen last week." Talon answered.

Athena nodded sleepily and put her head down, falling asleep. Talon

looked over at his brother.

"You know we're going to have to leave soon, don't you."

Toothless nodded. "Where will we go?"

"North, to the human island of Berkoshta. Then south to the Isle of Night."

"The Isle of Night?" You mean?" The 10 year old said.

"Yes Talon answered, looking at Athena. "I'm taking Athena to the Fountain of Youth."

\*\*\*\*\* Meanwhile \*\*\*\*\*

In the darkness of the deserted cove, Finley stared at the charred area of ground that used to hold a fire.

He growled at the thought of Athena running away with a traitor. He was the crowned prince of Shakola. She could have been his queen. Instead, he chose to run off into the forest with some barbarian and abandon everything.

He would find her. She would marry him, and he would have the most beautiful girl in both kingdoms as his bride.

He looked up suddenly and growled softly as a figure slowly approached. Not aggressively, but more submissively, with a hint of caution.

"My prince." A soft, feminine voice said. The figure, a Night Fury, was cloaked so that you couldn't see her face. "What do you seek?"

"The princess." Finley answered, curious of this stranger.

"Ah, yes. The princess. The beautiful Princess Athena of Darkoba, isn't she?" the sweet voice asked again. Finley nodded. "Well, what if I told you I knew about the location of such a dragon?"

2What are you saying?" Finley asked.

"The girl you seek, and the dragon she left you for. I know where they are, and how to find them." The cloaked figure said.

"What do I have to do?" Finley said. "Show me how to find them!"

"Patience, my prince." The figure said, getting closer. "I think that things would go much smoother if we both agreed to work together."

Finley nodded in agreement, looking into the strange girl's sickeningly innocent purple eyes.

## 10. Their Faults Are Our Fates

\*\*Hey guys! Sorry for the long wait, I was travelling over the past

few days. I've been really busy over the summer, and summer is still busy for me, so you might have to wait a few days for the next chapter, sorry! But hope you guys like this chapter! Please review!\*\*

\*\*Thanks for reviewing  
toâ€|\*\*

\*\*SmokeyStorm\*\*

\*\*BoltandMaybelle247\*\*

\*\*LizzyLory\*\*

\*\*Th3-Dragon-Lord\*\*

\*\*Proud2beMexican\*\*

Athena woke up to Talon shaking her awake, again. "Come on. Get up." He whispered.

"What are we doing?" Athena asked, getting up sleepily.

"You wanted to know why this place was called this whispering forest, so I'm going to show you." Talon told her, leading the way through the tunnels.

They left through a cave and went into the forest. When they were going through the forest, Athena noticed that some of the grains from the fields were still growing among the grass. Talon stopped at an old willow tree, hanging upside down from one of the branches.

"What now?" Athena asked.

"Quiet." Talon said. "Listen."

"Listen for what?" Athena said, and then she heard it.

It was just faint enough that you could hear it, but quiet enough that you had to focus to hear it. It was the wind, speaking.

"It's supposed to tell you what your destiny is, and what your fate is." Talon said. "The last thing it told me was that I was going to find a true friend, which was the night before I met you."

Athena listened to the voices.

"\_Leave the life you know behind."\_

"\_A living legend stuck in time."\_

"\_A place once known but now is lost."\_

"\_Are you willing to pay the cost?"\_

"What does it mean?" Athena said.

"What does what mean?" Talon asked. "The wind is speaking to you, isn't it?"

"Does it always speak in riddles?" Athena asked again.

"It's supposed to be different for everyone." Talon said.

Athena continued listening to the wind, but was disturbed when they heard a twig snap and many voices shooshing someone.

Talon looked at Athena, motioning for her to follow him. They silently crept through the forest to where the voices had come from.

There was a large group of about 50 guards and knights, as well as Joel, Finley, and Avedis. All of them were in armour, and ready for battle. At the front of the group, beside the two princes and the king, was another Night Fury, but its face was hidden from view.

"How did they find us?" Athena whispered.

"I don't know. Can you see who the other dragon is?" Talon answered.

"No. Their face is hidden. But they're leading the others to the caves." Athena said.

Talon nodded. "We've been spied on."

\*\*\*\*\* 5 minutes later \*\*\*\*\*

Talon and Athena ran into Zaltana's cave, where she was organizing small coloured rocks in patterns on the floor.

"What brings you here with such urgency?" Zaltana said in her soft, wise voice.

"There are intruders heading towards the caves." Talon reported.

"Who?"

"The king and prince of Darkoba, the prince of Shakola, and some of their troops." Athena answered.

Zaltana looked at them with worry. "Go wake the others." She said urgently, gathering up the stones and placing them, along with other artifact's, in a leather bag.

"Wait. There's someone leading them here." Athena said.

"Their faults are our fates." was all Zaltana said. Then she ran out of the cave to wake up Aleron and the three Nadder sisters.

Talon and Athena went to wake up everyone else. "Go get my brother. Meet me outside on the tall rock." Talon told her.

"Tall rock?"

"Toothless will know where that is."

Athena nodded and headed back to the cave. Talon went to wake up the

others.

When Athena reached the smaller cave, the younger Night Fury was awake and staring at her with curious eyes. "We have to leave, don't we?"

"Yes, but it'll be okay. We just have to meet your brother at the tall rock. Do you know where that is?" Athena said. Toothless nodded and led the way.

"How did you know we had to leave?" Athena asked.

"I could hear you through the caves, they echo." Toothless answered.

Athena nodded. They flew out of the cave system and onto a huge boulder.

"Good, you're here." Talon said, flying up to meet them. Behind him were Zaltana, Nakeya, Zack, and Stuart. Other dragons were flying out of other caves and hiding up in trees and rocks on the mountain.

"Aleron, Satin, Savannah, and Sari are on their way back to the castle." Felix said, flying over to them. "I told them that we were going to contact them when everything was safer. I can't find Tess, though."

"I wonder why?" Talon said sarcastically.

Nakeya growled. "I always hated that!" Felix coughed, cutting her off. Nakeya rolled her eyes.

"So Tess is a traitor, we've got royals from not one but two countries after us, and we're being attacked for the first time in 50 years." Stuart said, summing up the situation they were in.

Everyone nodded, and then the first fire ball exploded into the mountain.

**\*\*Alright, hope you guys like this chapter! The adventure has begun! And I get that earlier behind and time don't really rhyme, but it's close enough. Please review!\*\***

## 11. Forest Chase

**\*\*Yay! New chapter! There will probably be more time in between updates because I have a lot of stuff to do in life and other stories to work on as well, but there will be updates! I promise! Hope you enjoy this chapter! Please Review!\*\***

**\*\*Thanks for reviews fromâ€¦\*\***

**\*\*BoltandMaybelle247\*\***

**\*\*Proud2beMexican\*\***

**\*\*LizzyLory\*\***

**\*\*Wilson(Anonymous)\*\***

The side of the mountain blew up, sending butts of rock and dirt everywhere. The group of dragons ducked behind the rock to get out of the way as rock showered down from another explosion.

"Everyone get down!" Felix yelled. They all ducked down behind the rock for cover from more explosions.

"Spread out!" The King ordered.

"We need to get out of here!" Zack whispered.

They split into 2 groups with Athena, Zaltana, Felix, and Toothless going one way and Talon, Stuart, Nakeya, and Zack going another.

Athena's POV

We ran through the forest. There were still explosions happening in the mountain and yells were heard as knights searched for us. If we kept running, we could probably have a good chance of getting away. Probably.

Suddenly, a plasma blast exploded in front of us, causing my group to stop suddenly. I turned around to see my dad, my brother, and a bunch of guards.

"Surrender! If you don't attack, we won't hurt you!" My dad said. Felix snarled. The guards readied for attack. Felix realized that we were outnumbered and stood down.

"Athena! Come home." My brother said.

"No!" I yelled back.

"Come back to the kingdom!" Joel said.

"That's not my home anymore!" I retorted.

"I never said it was an option." Joel said, narrowing his eyes.

My dad motioned for three of the guards to come forward. They did, and grabbed me.

"No! Let me go! Don't touch me!" I screamed, slapping a Nadder in the face with my tail. He bled heavily from the now broken nose, and backed away. He also had a scratch below his left eye. I fought off the other two, who ended up with multiple scratches, and another with a broken nose. Felix, meanwhile, fought off a Nightmare and a gronkle.

I backed away from the guards, snarling. Felix growled again.

"You're outnumbered. What are you gonna do?" Joel said. Zaltana stepped forward with something wrapped in her tail.

"Unwise your choices are. Think before your words." She said. Then

she flicked her tail and a dust flew over the guards and my family. When they breathed it in, they passed out on the ground.

"They will not be asleep for long. To safety we must go, before they catch us." She said. I nodded and the four of us headed out again. We reached the place we were meeting the others at, and hid in the trees to wait.

Talon's POV

Nakeya, Zack, Stuart, and I ran around the trees, dodging the fire and spikes shot at us.

"We need to lose them!" Nakeya yelled,, flicking spikes behind us.

"You think I haven't thought of that already!" I yelled back.

We all ducked as Nadder spikes were thrown at us.

"They're catching up! We'll have to fight sooner or later!" Stuart said. In the near distance, the voices of the dragons chasing us grew louder.

"Well it's a good thing we know how to fight then." Zack said.

We all got into a fighting position as Finley and a bunch of guards jumped through the bushes. Why Finley was stupid enough to fight with his injuries, I don't know.

Finley tackled me, but I clawed his face. Finley tried to counter attack, but I hit his still fractured wing. He growled in pain and backed off behind his forces.

Zack and Stuart blasted them with flaming rocks while Nakeya threw spikes and I shot plasma blasts at our attackers as we disappeared through the trees. We all ran back into the forest, and I looked back with just enough time to see Stuart crumple to the ground, a poisonous Nadder spike in his shoulder.

**\*\*Alright, I know that this chapter is slightly shorter, but it was pretty good, I think. The adventure has begun as the group leaves the outskirts of Darkoba. Hope you all enjoyed the chapter! Please review! If you have any ideas for the adventure, I would like to hear them, and I will see if I am able to work them into the plot I have ready!\*\***

## 12. There Is No Escape

**\*\*Sorry for the long wait guys. I've been travelling, and we changed our wifi server, so we didn't have internet for a while, and we had to reset my computer, so I couldn't upload. And next I was getting ready for the horse show I'm going to in a couple of days. (Which, to make matters worse, my horse's tail is matted with burrs. 'Joy') Anyways, I'll be at the horse show for a few days, and then I'm going camping for a week, so there will be a while between updates. I'll try and upload another chapter after this one before then though! Hope you guys like this chapter!\*\***

**\*\*Thanks for reviewing  
toâ€|\*\***

**\*\*Proud2beMexican\*\***

**\*\*WilsonAnonymous\*\***

**\*\*The3-Dragon-Lord\*\***

**\*\*LizzyLory\*\***

Nakeya, Talon, and Zack ran breathlessly towards the meeting point. They finally stopped under the cover of the trees.

"Did we lose them?" Zack asked. Nakeya nodded. "Good." The orange Gronkle said.

Talon looked up into the trees. "I think it's okay to come down now."

Athena, Zaltana, Felix, and Toothless jumped down from the trees.

"We have to move. They won't be long." Felix said. "Where's Stuart?"

"Uh. Stuartâ€| didn't make it." Talon sighed.

"Honour him, we will, as soon as we get away." Zaltana said. Everyone nodded.

"I know where we can go." Talon said. The group followed him until they came to a river. "We can camp on the river. That way, we'll have water, but can move our position every day. I think the river follows a canyon that leads to the ocean." Talon said.

After scoping out the area to make sure they weren't being watched, everyone went to sleep, hiding away in the forest as best they could. Each took watch to make sure the guards didn't come back.

Over the following week, the seven dragons travelled along the river towards the coast. Talon was right about the canyon, and soon the North Seas were in sight.

"There it is." Athena said, looking out over the ocean as they reached the cliffs at its edge.

"You've never seen anything like this before, have you?" Nakeya spoke up.

"Only in books. It's a lot better in person." Athena answered, gazing over the ocean.

"Books and pictures can never substitute for real life." Zaltana commented, coming to stand next to Athena.

"We'll camp here for the night, then keep moving in the morning." Felix said.

"Where are we going tomorrow?" Zack asked, trying to get more

detail.

"That way." Toothless pointed out over the ocean.

"But we're already at the ocean's edge. We can't go any further." Athena said, confused.

"Sure we can." Talon responded.

"How."

"We fly over it." Talon responded again.

"Isn't it a bit far do to that?" Athena asked.

"There's an island out there, called Berkoshta." Felix said. "We'll stop there after we fly away, and then figure out where we're going from there."

Zaltana looked up at the darkening sky. "As the sun sleeps, so do we. Our strength is of much value at this time."

Zack nodded. "I'll take first watch."

Everyone went to sleep, concealed by the willow trees near the cliffs, getting ready for tomorrow.

Athena blinked awake in the dark. She could here the waves crashing against the cliffs. With her night vision, she could see Felix waking up Talon.

"You're watch." Felix said. "Wake up Nakeya when the moon reaches that point." He said, pointing to the sky. Talon nodded.

"Wait. " Talon said as Felix turned to go back to sleep.

"Talon, I'm really tired. What do you want?"

"I think we should go south after Berkoshta."

"Why? To where?"

"The Isle of Night." Talon whispered. Athena's ears perked up slightly as she wondered what this Isle of Night was, and tried to listen better.

"Are you crazy? That's way too far south and in completely unknown territory!" Felix yell-whispered.

"People have gone there before." Talon argued.

"And none of them have ever come back!" Felix said. "It's t far, and to dangerous."

"Darkoba would never be able to find us there." Talon said, continuing to try and convince Felix to agree.

"There are plenty of other places that they won't find us either." Felix said, turning back around.

Athena wasn't sure if they kept arguing or not, but she didn't care, because she just wanted to sleep.

Athena ran through the tropical forest on an island she had never been on before. There was something chasing after her, but she couldn't see what it was. All she knew was that it was yelling after her, and clearly psychotic.

In the distance she could hear explosions and cries of pain. There were also people yelling. She was sure she had heard the voices before, but she couldn't figure out who they were.

The sky was black, but there were no stars. The air felt like heavy smoke that burnt her lungs when she breathed. The rain was on fire.

Athena ran blindly through the forest, stumbling over nothing, and falling into a cave that immediately sealed off. She looked around in the darkness frantically, searching for an escape, but there was no way out.

She heard an evil laugh, and whipped around, coming face to face with purple eyes.

"It has begun."

### 13. Storms Are Stronger Than Wings

\*\*Hey guys, sorry for the long wait. I was camping and at a horse show. I also have a bit of writers block, so if you have any ideas for the story, I would love to hear them and think about how I can incorporate them into the story. Anyways, here's the newest chapter! Please review!\*\*

\*\*Thanks for reviews! LizzyLory, BoltandMaybelle247, johnnylee619, SmokeyStorm, Proud2beMexican, DragonDude23\*\*

Athena jumped awake from her dream, almost knocking over Talon in the process.

"Whoa!" Talon dodged her wings. "It's just me, relax!"

"Sorry." Athena said shyly, calming down. "Crazy dream."

"Well, at least you're awake. We're leaving soon."

They turned and walked over to where the others were gathering, at the edge of the cliffs.

"So we're flying over the ocean?" Athena said sceptically, waiting for them to say it was a joke and they were following the coast.

"No, we're going to swim across it." Nakeya said sarcastically. Athena rolled her eyes at the Nadder.

The seven dragons took off over the ocean. Considering that it was an ocean, there wasn't that much to see except open water once the land surrounding Darkoba disappeared. Soon, all they could see was

waves.

When it got dark, the wind picked up and it started to rain. The dragons struggled to remain on a straight path to the island. If they strayed even a few hundred metres away, they could miss the island entirely and fly endlessly over the ocean until they dropped from exhaustion and drowned.

"We need to find land!" Zack yelled over the wind.

"Nice of you to tell us, Captain Obvious!" Nakeya yelled back.

"It's only a few more miles! We should be alright!" Felix yelled. They flew the few miles, the wind picking up even more, and there was still no island. Their wings beat against the wind as they desperately tried not to be blown away by the wind storm.

"Where's the island?!" Athena yelled.

"I don't know, maybe we misjudged the distance!" Felix yelled.

"Wait! Maybe the island just grew wings and flew away!" Nakeya yelled sarcastically, as always.

"We've got to find it soon! I don't want to drown!" Zack yelled.

"Oh yeah! That's really reassuring!" Talon yelled back. Zaltana and Toothless hovered a few metres away, observing the argument with slight amusement.

"Wait! What's that!" Athena yelled, nodding towards a shadow in the distance.

"Maybe it's land!" Talon yelled hopefully.

"It might not be Berkoshta." Felix warned.

"Who cares!" Talon yelled back, already flying towards the island. The other six dragons followed hurriedly. While they were flying to the island, the wind switched directions so that they flew against the wind, making the fly almost twice as long as a normal flight. When they finally got to the island, Zack face planted into the ground.

"Land!" He yelled happily. "I'm never letting you out of my sight again!"

"I think I see a cave over there!" Felix said, pointing to a dark shadow on a cliff face. Everyone agreed to go into the cave, and they all ran into it and curled up for a well-deserved nap as it started to hail.

When the seven dragons awoke, the storm had passed and the small island they were on was shrouded in a thin mist. Upon looking around, they found that they had landed on a small land mass only a hundred feet or less across with two trees and a small cave.

"Now what?" Zack asked grumpily. Athena had found that his attitude had been getting worse every day they had been traveling, even though

he seemed to be trying to control it.

"We wait for the fog to go away I guess." Athena suggested.

"I thought you only asked questions." Nakeya teased. Athena rolled her eyes, and Talon laughed a bit.

They all just sat quietly, waiting for the fog to pass. Felix caught a few fish for everyone, and Zaltana started to reorganize the bags of objects she had brought, including the inscribed rocks. Everyone was very curious about the rocks, but they couldn't figure out what the symbols on the rocks meant, and Zaltana didn't speak about them.

They were all very bored, and about to fly through the mist anyway, when they saw the ship sailing past their small island.

#### 14. Berkoshta

**\*\*80 reviews! I never imagined that this story would get that many reviews! You guys are awesome! Thanks! Anyways here's the new chapter! I'm sorry for the huge gaps in between updates, but I'm just a really busy person with a lot of stories to work on, plus I've got school to worry about and my family does a lot of travelling for events and stuff like that. That and I need a new computer because mine is REALLY slow, so sometimes I have to wait until I can get a school computer to upload. I will keep trying to upload as much as I can. Thanks for reading you guys!\*\***

The Viking ship sailed through the mist towards the island. The sails were burnt and smelled of smoke.

"Humans!" Athena gasped, looking curiously at the strange beings.

"We must be near Berkoshta." Felix said.

"I think they're sailing back to their island. We could follow them." Nakeya suggested.

Everyone agreed, and they set out when they were a safe distance from the ship, following slowly. Soon, they came into view of the island. It was a large island with a tall mountain and a village on the southern coast line. Many other humans were gathering at the docks to greet the arriving ones.

"What is this place?" Athena said, staring down at her new surroundings.

"It's Berkoshta. The humans call it Berk. A lot of other dragons live here, as well as the humans, called the Hooligans, I think." Talon explained.

"Except Night Furies." Zack said. "You guys don't belong here." He said pointedly at the three Night Furies flying by him.

"Chill Zack." Nakeya said, swatting her tail by his face. The purple Nadder flew over to Athena. "He's just grumpy because his uncle got killed by humans here a few years ago." She explained

blankly.

Athena just nodded and looked over at Zack's scowling face. His attitude seemed to be getting worse every day.

"Let's land over hear." Felix suggested, flying towards the forest behind the biggest house at the top of the hill. They landed and took a moment to rest. After all, they had just flown over an ocean.

A door opened at the back of a building, and 6 young human children rushed out onto the grass. There was a boy with black hair swinging a small club, trying to impress a blonde girl holding a toy axe. Another blonde girl and a blonde boy, who looked like twins, tackled each other to the ground. A larger with blonde hair came out holding a toy sword. Lastly, a boy with reddish brown, who was smaller than the other kids, stumbled out of the door, holding a book. The dragons watched the children play. They looked around 6 or 7, and had no idea that there were 7 dragons less than 100 metres away from them. After the kids were called away by their parents, Toothless was the first to quietly speak.

"Can I stay on the island?" Everyone looked at him in disbelief.

"You want to stay on the island!? You're, like, 10!" Nakeya said a bit too loudly.

Felix spoke up. "I agree with Nakeya. You're too young to be on your own on an island this dangerous."

Zaltana looked down at the smaller dragon. "Fate will guide where your wings take you." The light green dragon advised in her wise voice.

The dragons moved away from the village and into the forest. They made camp and Zaltana broke out the rocks again. As it got dark, Talon and Athena went out to find fish. When they returned, a fire had been started for warmth, and the 7 dragons ate.

Later that night, everyone was listening to the sounds and lights that came from the village as it was raided by the local dragons. Dragons were yelling orders and information to each other, and sometimes calling for help. Occasionally you would hear the war cries of the Vikings, and sometimes a dragon cry out in pain. Lights from explosions and fires lit up the sky around the village with an orange glow.

"Should we help them?" Nakeya asked.

"No, we shouldn't risk our lives a leader we don't serve." Felix answered. "We have to focus on deciding where we are coin to go next." Talon opened his mouth to speak. "If you say what I think you're going to say, I'll break your tail!" He snapped immediately. Talon shut his mouth quickly and turned back to watching the sky.

Athena sighed and looked around. Felix, Nakeya, and Talon were watching the sky. Toothless was watching Zaltana organize the small rocks, and Zack was muttering to himself a few metres away from the group. She scanned the forest, looking for any signs of danger.

Something caught her eye, and she took a closer look.

"Uh, guys. Humans." She said. Everyone looked up to see a large man with a missing arm and leg leading a small boy, the smallest one they had seen earlier, through the forest. The dragons all say quietly and listened to what the humans were saying.

"But I want to stay and help Gobber." The boy said to the man.

"No, it's too dangerous for you. You stay out here and guard this house." Gobber said, pointing to the small shed that smelled like herbs.

The boy walked over to the door of the shed and opened it. "I'm going to be the best dragon slayer ever one day." He said confidently.

"I'm sure you will be." Gobber smile at the small boy. "Now you, stay, put, there." He pointed to the shed. Then turned and walked back towards the village. The boy went into the shed and closed the door behind him.

The dragons were silent for a bit, and then a crash was heard from the inside of the shed, meaning that the boy had obviously broken something. Zaltana turned to Toothless.

"You find this queen dragon, and act like you are in her control, you must. Understand youngling?" The young dragon nodded.

Everyone said goodbye to the youngest embed of the group, and watches as he flew off in the direction that the dragons with food were flying.

"I'm going after him." Nakeya said.

"Under the force of the queen, you will end up." Zaltana warned.

"It doesn't matter. He's too young to be on his own. The least I can do is make sure he stays alive." Nakeya argued, already getting ready to take off.

"Nakeya! Stay where." Felix ordered. But it was too late. Nakeya had already taken off in the direction of the raid.

Talon sighed. "There's no way of stopping her now. She's too stubborn."

"She's a strong fighter. I'm sure she'll be fine." Athena said, trying to stay optimistic. And that was the last that they ever saw of Toothless and Nakeya.

## 15. Reveal

**\*\*Hey guys! I know it's been a rally long time since I updated this, but I had some writers block, and I have a busy life. But here's the new chapter, and I'm working on the next one. Hope you enjoy it! Thanks for reviewing the last chapter to - guest a, Proud2beMexican, AliceCullen3, johnnylee619\*\***

Around the middle of the next day, everyone agreed to wander the island, being sure to stay clear of the humans. Zaltana wanted to collect some plants, Felix wanted to scope out the area to make sure they weren't being followed, and everyone agreed that Zack needed some space to himself, even though he didn't admit it

Talon and Athena were flying just below the free line in the forest. They were chasing some Terrible Terrors through the trees, as well as racing each other.

They flew down into cove where they caught some fish for their lunch and just lay in the sun.

"You know," Athena started. "This place looks a lot like our cove back in Darkoba."

Talon looked around. "Yeah it does." He commented. "Except there are more trees in the other cove." Athena nodded in agreement. She sighed and leaned against Talon.

"If only he hadn't found us." She said sadly.

"If he hadn't found us, you'd be making arrangements to be getting married." Talon commented.

"No." Athena said. "I'd be fighting my parents not to get married."

Talon laughed, then got very serious. "Would you have run away with me?"

"What?"

"If you had been forced to get married to that guy, would you have run away with me?"

Athena looked up at him with big round eyes. Talon looked back down at her.

And then he kissed her.

Joel looked around the dark cove. Finley was looking around the lake edge, as if waiting for someone.

"What are we doing here? We should be out searching. They could days away by now."

"Relax, I know what I'm doing. I now someone who can help us find them." Finley said impatiently. "I know you're there!" He yelled at the dark shadows of the bushes.

A dark figure emerged, and Joel saw a Night Fury with purple eyes. "Hello Finley." She said sweetly. "Who's your friend?"

"This Prince Joel from Darkoba." Finley said. Joel nodded.

Then the other Fury and Finley started to whisper to each other, glancing occasionally at Joel. Joel rolled his eyes.

"Who are you?" Joel said.

"That is not for you to know." The girl said.

"All I want is a name." Joel said.

"You may call me Tess." She said. Joel nodded.

"So, Tess, what makes you think that you can help us?" Joel asked questioningly.

"I think I've already proven that I can help you. Or else you would still be searching this cove for clues instead of tracking the rebels from their mountain." Tess answered. Joel looked taken back. Tess smiled sweetly at him. "What is it you seek, my prince? You already have wealth and power, what more could you need?"

"I want to find my sister and the traitor she away with." Joel said.

"Ah, the girl. But for a different reason than Finley, I think. Why so desperate?" Tess said, getting closer.

"She could be with someone who's dangerous."

"Yes, she is. The Boy she is with, Talon, he is very dangerous. There is no telling how long your dear sister will last out in the wild with him."

Joel growled. "Where did they go?"

"She doesn't know." Finley said. "But she knows who knows, and where to find them."

"Who!?" Joel said.

Tess smirked. "Someone on the inside."

\*\*Yeah, it's pretty short, I know. but the next one will be longer. There was just some stuff that I wanted to put in the story, add a bit of drama. This chapter is mainly foreshadowing, and I wrote it in about 20 minutes. So, hope you liked it, next chapter is in progress. Please review!\*\*

## 16. Allies and Traitors

\*\*Hey guys! I told you I had another chapter in progress! Yes, I do realize that the last chapter was very short, but had literally come up with that in about 20 minutes and I needed an in-between chapter to get to this chapter. I also noticed (thanks to johnnylee619 for pointing it out) that there was almost no transition between scenes in the last chapter. I apologize for that, my phone messed that up, but I have fixed it for this chapter. I hope you all enjoy this chapter, and I will hopefully have another one up soon! Enjoy!\*\*

\*\*Thanks for reviews: SmokeyStorm, johnnylee619, AliceCullen3, Crazy-Shanagins\*\*

Athena blinked awake. She felt the steady breathing of Talon lying

next to her, sleeping, his wing over her.

She wasn't sure what had woken her up, but she felt like she was being watched.

"Snap"

A twig snapped just above the cove walls. Athena tried to listen for movement, but whatever had made the sound wasn't moving, which meant that it knew she had heard.

"Talon." Athena nudges him with her wing. "Talon, wake up."

"Go back to sleep." Talon mumbles sleepily, nuzzling her neck. "We don't have to back with the others until morning."

"Seriously Talon, wake up! I think someone's watching us." Athena whispered urgently.

Another loud crack of a branch breaking woke Talon up. His eyes went to slits and he scanned the forest above.

"Who's up there?" He asked.

"If I had known, I either would have woken you up faster or let you sleep." Athena said quietly.

Another branch snapped. Talon got up quietly. "Stay here."

Talon went out into the cove, trying to make it look as if he hadn't heard anything. A rustle in the forest above drew the two night furies attention. Athena went to Talon's side.

"Who's up there?" She whispered.

"I don't know." He whispered back.

More trees moved, and then Zack flew down into the cove, landing a few meters from the pair of black dragons.

"Zack, sneak up on us much." Talon said.

Zack just growled at them.

"What's your problem?" Athens said, going over to the lake for some fish. Talon joined her.

"Everything is your fault." Zack said angrily.

Athens stopped what she was doing and turned around.

"What?"

"Stuart's dead. Toothless and Nakeya left. We're being hunted by two armies. Tess betrayed us. It all never would have happened if you had just stayed in your castle with your stuck family and their servants." Zack ranted. His eyes were red and he was breathing heavily, trying to control his anger. Athena growled at him.

"Zack stop." Talon said.

"My brother is dead because of her, because you two led our enemies to the mountain!"

"That was not our fault! Tess did that!" Talon defended.

"But if you hadn't brought back the little princess, she would have never done that!" Zack snarled.

"Zack calm down." Athena said.

"You're going to get us all killed!" Zack said, starting to step towards them slowly.

"Zack we're not all going to die. We'll escape and see if we can find the others. We'll find a new home." Athena said.

"We can go south, to the tropical islands. Uncharted territory, they'll never find us there!" Talon said, trying to find a way to calm down the crazy Gronkle.

"The rest of us are trying to find a way to get off this island without a trace, while you're just hooking up with your boyfriend here." Zack snarled at Athena. Talon and Athena widened their eyes.

"Zack, how long have you been watching us?" Talon asked.

"Sometime you're going to get us all killed."

"Zack?" Athena said warily.

"So I'll just have to kill you before you kill me." He said. Then he shot a very powerful fireball at Athena's head. There was no time for Athena to dodge, even though she tried and Talon tried to pull her out of the way.

But the fireball never hit Athena. It hit Zaltana. The light green Nadder jumped into the path of the flame before Athena could get hit. The blast sent her flying a few meters until she hit the ground hard a few feet away from the lake.

Zack aimed for another shot, but Athena and Talon acted too quickly, and the fireball landed harmlessly in the lake.

Talon tackled Zack to the ground. "What the hell do you think you're doing!?"

"I'm not willing to die for some stuck up royal snob and her boyfriend to escape a royal army!" Zack yelled back, throwing Talon off and slamming him into the wall. Talon lost his breath, and couldn't stand up while he was trying to regain it.

Zack stalked angrily over to Athena, his eyes blotted red. He shot many fireballs at her, and Athena returned some of the fire. Both dragons dodged most of the fireballs, but Athena was hit in the shoulder by a smaller one, which knocked her down. Before she could get back up and counterattack, Zack has pinned her to the ground. Athena couldn't push off the heavier dragon.

Zack growled and looked into her eyes. "Long live the Queen." He snarled, ready to blow off her head.

There was an explosion just behind his neck. Zack's eyes rolled back in his head and he swayed back and forth before falling limply onto the ground.

Athena looked up at Talon, who was still trying to regain his breath. Athena lay on the ground, trying to recover from the shock of almost dying.

When they finally got up, Athena ran over to where Zaltana lay at the edge of the lake. The green Nadder's breathing was shallow. The light in her eyes was fading. There was a black burn mark on her chest where Zack has shot her.

"Zaltana. It's going to be okay. You're going to be fine." Athena said, trying reassure the sorceress as well as herself.

"Do not lie, my life you know is over soon." Zaltana said.

"Don't say that!" Athena said, tears springing in her eyes. Zaltana looked at her.

"Leave the life you know behind, a living legend stuck in time, a place once known but now is lost, are you willing to pay the cost." Zaltana whispered.

With that, Zaltana sighed and didn't breathe again, the last light leaving her eyes.

Tears were streaming down Athena's face. Talon came up next to her, reaching over to close Zaltana's eyes for the last time. Athena cried into his shoulder.

\*\*\*\*\*later that night\*\*\*\*\*

Athena lay asleep in a cave in the side of the mountain. Tears still stained her scales. She mumbled sadly in her sleep.

At the mouth of the cave stood Talon and Felix. Earlier that evening, after the fight had happened, Felix had found the two Night Furies a bit away from the cove, Talon trying to calm a very tearful Athena. Once Athena had fallen back asleep, Felix and Talon had given Zaltana a burial at sea, and burned Zack's body. Now the two of them were staring over the island, watching the distant raids in the village end just before the first light of morning.

"I'm taking Athena to the Isle of Night." Talon said, breaking the silence.

"No you're not." Felix said.

"Yes I am." Talon argued.

"Why are you so desperate to take her there? She won't survive; it's not her type of place." Felix said. "She doesn't even know how to fight properly."

"Yes she does." Talon said, looking back towards the village. "She could probably beat you."

"How does she know how to fight?" Felix asked. Talon just smirked at the other dragon. "You taught her how, didn't you?"

"What else would expect?" Talon said."

"You still didn't answer my question."

"Which question?" Talon smiled cheekily.

"Why are you taking her to the Isle of Night?" Felix asked again, demanding an answer.

"Awe, come on. Why not? Tropical forest, warm weather, lots of fish." Talon said.

Felix glared at him. "Real reason Talon." He said through his teeth.

Talon sighed. "I'm taking her to the fountain of youth."

"That place doesn't exist! You're taking her to a place that isn't a place!" Felix yelled. Talon shot him a look as Athena flinched in her sleep at the louder noise. "Are you crazy?" Felix whispered.

Talon just smirked. "Absolutely."

\*\*\*\*\* at the Darkoba castle \*\*\*\*\*

Joel and Finley brought a figure with a black cloth sack over his head into one of the empty storage rooms below the castle. The prisoner struggled against the bindings around his wings and the two princes leading him, his yells for help were muffled by a gag.

The princes chained their prisoner to the wall, ensuring he wouldn't escape, and then closed the heavy wooden door. In the corner, hiding in the shadows, Tess looked over the room, ready to gather any important information they got out of the prisoner.

The prisoner struggled against the chains, trying to yell for help.

"Shut up!" Finley said, hitting the prisoner's head with his tail.

"Now, you're going to tell us everything we need to know, or we're going to leave to rot in this room forever. Got it?" Joel snarled at the captive. The kidnapped figure nodded frantically.

Joel nodded to Finley, who reached over and pulled the sack off the prisoner's head.

The two princes looked down at their prisoner.

"You going to cooperate and answer our questions?" Joel said.

Finley added on with venom in his voice. "Or are we going to have to use more means of force? Aleron."

## 17. Plans Revealed and Plans Made

**\*\*Hey guys! Here's another chapter! This one is probably the longest one I've written ever! Yay! Hope you guys like it. I'll try to update soon again!\*\***

**\*\*Thanks for reviewing to SmokeyStorm, AliceCullen3, Proud2beMexican, and Wolf (anonymous).\*\***

**\*\*Also, I'm starting another fanfic pretty soon, called This Is Not a Fairy Tale (or TINAFI for short ;). You can see the summary for that on my profile is you're interested in it, I'm not exactly sure when it will be posted though. \*\***

**\*\*Also, for this chapter, *\*\*\_\*\*italics\*\*\_\*\** are thoughts. Enjoy!\*\***

**\*\*Athena's POV\*\***

The sun shining into my eyes woke me up. I tried to get up and stretch my wings, but there was something holding onto me, or someone. I turned my head and saw the Talon was still asleep next to me, with his wing over me and holding me close to his chest.

I tried to get up again, but he growled protectively in his sleep and pulled me closer. I rolled my eyes. "Over protective much?" I mumbled quietly.

\_ 'Well, it's not like I'm going to get anywhere until he wakes up, so I might as well just stay here'\_ I thought, leaning on Talon again and resting my head on my tail fins.

I stated out of the cave we were in and over the forests of Berkoshta. It looks so peaceful, with fluttering above the trees, along with the occasional Terrible Terror.

\_ 'What if they're working for Finley, or my brother.\_' I thought suddenly, wondering if they would send out spies this quickly. Terrors made good spies as they could hide in small spaces. My train of thought went on to think of the Changewings that my father hired as spies sometimes in the kingdom. \_ 'They could be hiding invisible in this cave right now, watching you.\_' A small voice in my head said. The thought made me inch closer to Talon.

I continued staring out over the island, thinking about the raids that happened so early in the morning. The humans fixed their houses so quickly after the other dragons left, and then they went back to their lives, hunting and gathering, fishing, and training to fight. The raids had probably gone on for so long that they were considered part of normal life, leaving the humans on edge, always waiting for the next raid to come, so they could defend their town once again.

\_ 'Where do the other dragons go after the raids?\_' I wondered. I'd only ever seen Terrors on the island during the day, and they usually stayed near the town so they could steal food from the humans. But the others just flew off after the raids. And Zaltana had said something about a "Queen dragon" earlier.

I sighed, thinking about Zaltana. She had been such a good friend to me. \_'Why did she have to die?\_'

In was snapped out of my thoughts by Talon sighing and moving next to me. I twisted my head around to look at him. He opened his eyes.

"Hey." He said, looking down at me.

"Hey."

"You sleep okay?" He asked, a flash of worry for me in his eyes.

"Yes." I lied. I've been having nightmares for the past nights since we ran away.

"Don't lie to me, Athena. I know you've been having nightmares." He said.

My eyes widened. I haven't told anyone about them. "How did you..."

"You talk in your sleep sometimes." Talon said before I could finish what I was saying. I frowned, and he just chuckled and nuzzled me. "Hey, I promise it will get better soon."

I nodded, which made him smile a bit. Talon got up and stretches out his wings before walking towards the mouth of the cave. "You coming princess?" He asked, winking at me. I rolled my eyes and got up to follow him. We flew over the forest, diving above and below the tree line. Eventually we reached the ocean, caught breakfast, and found a small beach that looked like no one had been on it in a long time.

As we ate, I wondered about the prophecy Zaltana had said before she died. I blinked back tears at the thought of her death. Talon looked up at me, seeing that I was sad. His eyes flashed with concern. I know he hates seeing me sad. He reached over and put his tail over mine. "It's okay." He whispered just loud enough for me to hear. I smiled a bit at him.

After I was done eating, I stared at the sand, drawing little images of nothing in particular with my tail. "Athena?" I heard Talon call. I snapped my head over to look at him.

"Did you hear anything that I just said?" He asked, worry heavy in his voice. I slowly shook his head. Talon sighed and came over to me, putting his wing around me and pulling me into his chest. "You okay?"

\_"No." I answered, my voice wavering a little. He hugged me and I rested my head against his shoulder. He strokes my wing gently. "She didn't have to die." I choked out. I stayed in Talon's arms for a while, letting a few tears escape silently. \_'I wonder how she knew the prophecy?\_' I thought to myself.

"What prophecy?" Talon asked, confused. I blinked, realizing that I was thinking out loud.

"The last thing she said before she, you know. That was the prophecy

I heard in the whispering forest." I explained.

Talon shrugged. "She was a sorceress, she had her ways." I nodded. "Come on, I want to show you something." Talon said, pulling me along the beach.

"Where are we going?" I said, laughing a little bit for the first time in days.

"You'll see." He said, winking at me. We took off, flying over the island again. We approached the mountain on the island. "Close your eyes." Talon told me.

"Are you crazy?" I said.

"Relax. Just close your eyes. I'll guide you." He told me again.

I closed my eyes and felt Talon fly close beneath me. My claws brushed against his scales. We flew like this for a while. I felt when he would turn and tried my best to turn the same direction. Eventually we landed on a flat piece of land.

"Can I open my eyes now?" I asked.

"No." Talon answered, nudging me to move. He guided me and eventually I was standing, probably facing something, but I didn't know what. I could see was bright light mixed with random shadows that made no shape. "Now open." Talon said.

I blinked open my eyes, adjusting to the sudden bright sunlight. When I could see clearly, I gasped.

Talon had taken me close to the very top of the mountain. You could all across the island, but in a different perspective than if you were flying. The humans wandering in the village looked like ants. "This is beautiful!" I exclaimed with joy. Talon laughed a bit and smiled, seeing me happy again for the first time in a long while.

"I thought you might like it." He said, grinning at me. "One day when we're free, we'll find a place with a view like this, and you can wake up to it every day." He said.

I laughed a bit and smiled at him. "This is amazing. Thank you." I said.

"Anything for you princess." He said.

"You're reaching your princess limit for the day."

"I take my chances." he laughed. I smirked and tackled him. He pinned me to the ground, looking down at me and smirking. I blushed. He nuzzled my neck. "Not that I'd need much of a view to wake up to if I woke up next to you every day."

I blushed even more. You must have been able to see it through my scales, because Talon laughed and then got off me.

After that we just sat on the cliff edge and stared out over the island. Once again my train of thought led me to another question\_. 'Where's Felix?'

"I have no idea." Talon responded to my question. My eyes widened.  
\_'Can he read my mind?\_'\_

"No. You just keep thinking out loud." He smirked.

\_'I've got to stop doing that\_' I told myself.

"Well if you don't then the entire world will know what you're thinking." He said. I glared at him playfully and he smirked at me. I shoved him with my wing good-naturedly. We laughed. Then he got all serious.

"Athena. Have you ever heard of the Isle of Night?" He asked me. I tilted my head at him curiously.

"Yeah. It's an island down somewhere where no one's ever been. There's not even any proof that it exists."

"Yes, but do you know what's on the island." He asked. I shook my head.

"There's legends that say the Isle of Night is where the Fountain of Youth is, and that if you go there, you'll get eternal life, become immortal." He said.

"Sounds interesting." I said, not really sure where the conversation was going.

"It is." He said, looking at me. "And that's why I'm taking you there."

I was stunned by shock. \_'Taking me to the fountain of youth? Was he crazy?\_'\_

"Yes, I am a bit crazy." He said.

"I was thinking out-loud again, wasn't I?" I said.

"No. This time I could just read your expression." He said, smirking. I rolled my eyes.

"So, we're going to the fountain of youth?" I asked.

"Yes."

"What if it doesn't exist? If it's just myth?" I questioned.

"Then I guess we can live in the tropics." Talon said, grinning. I couldn't help but laugh.

\*\* - with Felix - \*\*

\*\*No POV\*\*

Felix's head hurt, a lot. He was wandering around in the forest, trying to get a grip with himself. He was so distracted on trying to focus in his mind that he kept bumping into trees or walking through bushes.

The Queen was too strong though. The longer he stayed on this island, the more exposed he got to her mind control. It wouldn't be long before he could no longer think for himself. He would just be one of the queen's minions, collecting food and attacking the humans. He would try and hold out for as long as he could, for Athena and Talon, but he didn't know how much longer he had.

\*\* - At the castle - \*\*

Aleron glared at his captors. He was still chained to the wall in the empty storage room. He wasn't sure if anyone had noticed he was gone. The interrogation was going on to the second hour.

"I'll never tell you where they went." Aleron growled.

"I'm sure you will, eventually." Joel said, spinning a spear around slowly with his tail.

"Someone will notice I'm gone and come looking for me." Aleron said.

"No they won't. As far as everyone in the castle knows, you're taking the two princes out on a training mission, and don't know when you'll be back." Finley smirked evilly. Aleron growled.

"So," Joel said again. "Are you going to talk?" Aleron spat at his nephew. Joel just laughed evilly. "That's no way to treat your future king."

"You are no king." Aleron said.

Finley jabbed Aleron in the side with a spear. "Where are they!?"

Aleron hissed in pain but didn't answer.

Tess got up from the shadows and joined the two princes. "You guys never really learned how to torture and interrogate, did you?" She said.

Joel glared at her while Finley just rolled his eyes.

"Give me that." Tess said, taking the spear from Finley. She went up to Aleron. "Where are they, Aleron?" She said.

Aleron looked down to avoid her eyes. He growled in pain as the spear was embedded into his forearm. "I'll never tell you." He growled.

"I guess we're going to do this the hard way then." Tess said.

The princes kept asking Aleron the same question over and over again. Each time he didn't answer, Tess made a new wound with the spear, or worsened an earlier one. Soon Aleron was bleeding heavily.

"Where are they!?" Finley yelled, using his tail to hit one of the spear wounds on Aleron's wing.

Aleron cried out in pain. "They went North." He choked out.

Finley, Tess, and Joel looked at each other, finally getting an

answer. "Good." Tess said, tossing the spear to the side. "Where North?"

"I don't know." Aleron said.

Tess motioned for Joel and Finley to follow her out into the hall. They closed the door behind them before Aleron could yell for help.

"Now what do we do. There's a lot of space up north. They could be anywhere." Joel said.

"We let him go." Tess suggested.

Finley protested. "What, are you crazy!? Why would we do that?"

"If we let him go, he's going to fly to where the girl and Talon are and warn them. All we have to do is give him a bit of a head start, and then track him to where they. That way, Aleron does all the work for us, and we still catch Athena and Talon." Tess explained.

"I like it." Joel commented. Finley nodded. They turned back into the room and unchained Aleron.

"If you tell anyone about this," Joel threatened holding a knife to Aleron's throat. "I will kill you in every way I know you fear." He growled at his uncle.

"Now get out of my sight." Finley ordered. Aleron flew away through the corridors and out away from the castle.

"Now we just have to wait." Tess said. "And then let the hung begin."

## 18. One Gone and One Returned

**\*\*Yay! Almost 100 reviews! Awesome! Thank you so much for reading my story, all of you! Hope you enjoy this chapter! I'll try and update again soon! 100\*\*\*\*th\*\*\*\* reviewer gets a gigantic pie! Everyone else who reviews gets giant cupcakes!\*\***

\* \* \*

><p>Athena and Talon stared at Felix. He was pacing around anxiously and muttering nonsense.<p>

"What's wrong with him?" Athena whispered to Talon.

"I have no idea." Talon whispered back.

"We have to leave!" Felix yelled suddenly.

"Yes, we've talked about this before. We can't stay here, we have to keep moving." Talon said, still wary of the Nightmare.

Felix's eye twitched a bit. "We have to leave now!"

"Where are we going to go then? We can't go back to Darkoba or Shakola and there's nothing else North except ice. You refuse to go

south, and now you're going crazy." Athena said.

"She's too strong. I can't take it anymore!" Felix said, shaking his head more and pacing again.

"He's being corrupted by the Red Death. If we don't leave soon, he'll be gone." Talon said. Athena looked at him sadly. "It might already be too late."

"Is she the one that also made Zack go crazy?" Athena asked. Talon nodded. "What about... Zaltana?"

Talon gave Athena a sympathetic look. "She had magic. She was strong." He sighed. "But right now we have Felix to worry about." The two of them looked over to see the rest of the cave empty.

"We should probably find him first." Athena said. "I'll take the north and east side, you look south and west?"

"Yeah, sure, meet back here in, like, an hour or two?" Talon said. Athena nodded and the two headed out to look for their troubled friend.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>Felix's POV<strong>

I shook my head. I have to get rid of her.

\_'You can try, Felix. But your life wouldn't be the same without me.'  
—

"No. I'm not falling for your hypnosis."

\_'But Felix, life will be good if you follow me.'\_

"I'm going to be one of your slaves!"

\_'You wouldn't be a slave. You would be a warrior.'\_

I froze.

\_'Isn't that what you've always wanted? To be a warrior. A hero.'\_

"Yes." Wait. I didn't say that.

\_'I can make you a warrior, Felix.'\_ I shook my head, only gently this time. \_'You'll be a hero.'\_

After that, my thoughts were pushed into the back of my mind, and I flew helplessly away, my wings carrying me to a place I didn't want to go, no matter how hard I told them to stop.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>No POV<strong>

\*\*A few hours later with Athena and Talon.\*\*

"I can't find him." Athena said.

"Mean either, he's not near the human village." Talon reported.

"There's no sign of him coming back here either."

"I think we just have to face it." Talon said. "He's gone."

Athena nodded sadly. "So I guess it's just us then." She said, looking out over the dark sky. "We could go see if he's at the raid. Try and see if we can hit on the head to regain his senses, or kidnap him until we're out of the queens reach."

"It's worth a shot." Talon said. "Stay close though." He added as they flew towards the village. "If the humans catch you, they'll kill you." Athena nodded.

The village was already up in flames. Humans were running around with weapons or buckets of water. Others were launching rocks into the air with catapults or raising huge torches to light the sky. Another one was working in a building, handing out weapons and sharpening swords.

Athena and Talon flew just out of the light's reach, concealed in the darkness. "I don't see him!" Athena yelled over the chaos.

"It's hard to see anybody!" Talon yelled back. An arrow flew past his head, just missing his eye. "Oh hell no!" He said, shooting a plasma blast towards the human, catching a building on fire. This caused many of the humans to start yelling and hiding.

"We should probably go." Athena suggested.

"Yep." Talon agreed. The two flew away from the village, landing on a small beach with a wrecked boat on it.

"Well, that was interesting." Talon said.

"Yeah. We still can't find Felix though." Athena said.

"I'm sure he'll be fine. He's smart, even under the queen's control, I'm sure he'll still have the sense to stay out of harm's way, more or less." Talon reassured her.

Athena opened her mouth to answer, but stopped when they heard a cough from the shadows of the wrecked boat. Talon nodded for Athena to stay back as he crept forward to look in the shadows. As he got closer, a hoarse voice spoke.

"You don't need to be so intimidating. I come in peace and only mean to help you."

"Aleron?" Talon said, looking confused.

"Uncle?" Athena said, equally confused, and came to stand near Talon.

Aleron crawled out of the shadows and into the early sunlight. Athena gasped at the sight of her uncle. Aleron had many wounds, oozing with

blood. His left eye was swollen and there were small rips in his wings. "You're hurt!" Athena gasped, rushing to help her uncle stand.

"I'll be fine. I'm healing." Aleron said. "Where are the others? I need to speak to you all."

Athena and Talon glanced at each other. "We're, all alone." Athena said slowly.

"Alone. How?" Aleron asked.

"Zack went crazy and attacked us, he's dead. Felix, Toothless, and Nakeya left, and Zaltana is, uh..." Talon said, trailing off. Athena looked at the ground.

"I'm sorry to hear that." Aleron said. "Many of them were my friends."

"So, what is it you have to tell us so desperately?" Talon said, changing the topic.

"They'll be here soon!" Aleron said urgently.

"Finley and Tess?" Athena asked.

"Yes. And Joel. They'll bring a few soldiers from each kingdom on a patrol and attempt to capture you two. And they'll probably look for me too. If we get caught, we'll all be tried for treason." Aleron explained hurriedly.

"But that's punishable by death." Athena said. Aleron nodded.

"I'm not dying at the hands of an executioner!" Talon exclaimed. "We have to leave. Now!"

"They'll be here in a few days. We still have some time." Aleron said.

"We should use that time to put some space between us and them." Talon said.

"Aleron is injured. We won't be able to get far. We should stay for a little bit longer and let him heal." Athena protested.

"Athena--"

"I didn't say it was an option." Athena said sternly.

Talon nodded. "As you wish." He turned to Aleron. "You think you can fly for about five more minutes?"

"I think so." Aleron said, stretching out his wings and standing unsteadily.

"Follow us. The cave is just in the forest and up the mountain a bit." Athena said. Aleron nodded, and they three of them headed back to the cave.

## 19. Escape From Berkoshta

**\*\*Hey guys! Sorry for the long wait! But with school, trips, and various other events in life, I'm a very busy person. But here's the newest chapter of Two Days After Tomorrow! Hope you all like it! Enjoy! Please Review!\*\***

\* \* \*

><p>Tess, Finley, and Joel flew against the wind, flying towards the island of Berkoshta. Trailing behind them was a group of soldiers from both Darkoba and Shakola.<p>

"We're nearing the island!" Joel said, alerting the group. "We'll land on the beach there." They flew down to the beach, scaring away a pack of brightly coloured Terrors.

"Alright, half of you will go over the North and West side of the island. The rest will cover the South and East side. Finley, Tess and I will patrol the island as well. We'll meet back here at noon tomorrow." Joel ordered the troops. "I want Athena to be kept safe. The other two can come back, \_dead,\_ or alive."

The soldiers saluted and flew off in their groups to search. Joel, Finley, and Tess were left at the beach. "Let's start at the mountain and work our way around." Finley said. "We should check all of the caves. They could be staying anywhere."

"We'll split up. It'll cover the mountain side faster." Tess said. Joel and Finley nodded, and the three set off towards the mountain.

\* \* \*

><p><span><strong>with Athena, Talon, and Aleron<strong>

The three dragons stood in the cave, watching the group of new comers disperse into the forest.

"We should go." Athena said.

Talon nodded. "We should wait until dark; we'll be able to sneak away."

"They'll find us before dark." Aleron said.

"Then we'll keep them off our trail until we leave." Talon said. "If we leave now, they'll see us flying away and catch us. It's dark in about an hour. We'll leave then." Talon said.

Aleron nodded, impressed. "You are a good leader and a brave warrior Talon." He stepped towards the mouth of the cave. "Take care of my niece. I'll keep them off your trail." With that, Aleron flew out of the cave and over the forest.

Athena looked over the forest, watching her uncle fly. "Now what so we do?"

"We can't stay here; they'll probably check the caves along the mountain." Talon said.

"We could go down into the forest. Keep moving and stay below the tree line until its dark." Athena suggested.

"I've taught you well." Talon said. Athena smiled at him. "We should also probably stay by the village. They might not go to near it because they won't want to run into the humans." Talon continued.

"What if we run into humans?"

"We won't."

Athena nodded, and the two flew down the mountain, sticking to the shadows, and landed in the forest below.

\* \* \*

><p><span><strong>later<strong>

Talon and Athena leapt into the trees and held their breaths as the soldiers ran beneath them. Once the soldiers had ran far enough away, Talon spoke in a hushed voice to Athena. "We have to split up."

"What!? Are you crazy!?"

"We'll be better off if we split up. They're looking for two of us. If we split up, they'll have less of a chance of catching us both." Talon explained.

"Where will we meet up?"

Talon looked around. "We'll meet at the bridge near the human's fight ring, when the moon is just above the horizon."

"Okay. Good luck." Athena said before turning to fly away.

"Athena!" Talon called after her. "Stay alive."

"You too." Athena answered, before flying away just under the tree line, staying near the humans village.

\* \* \*

><p><span><strong>Athena's POV<strong>

I ran through the trees, glancing around to make sure no one was following me. I'd been running for a long time and the sun was only just beginning to set. I stayed near the human village, hoping the soldiers would keep their distance from the humans. Jumping from tree to tree, I came in sight of the humans meeting place, like the great hall at the castle. I rested there, huddling in the shadows and closing my eyes for a minute.

"Athena?" I heard a familiar voice say my name. I bolted up into a defensive position, coming face to face with Joel. How did he find me?

"Look Athena. We don't have to fight. Just come home." Joel

said.

"You want me to give up? Just, abandon someone I care. You want me to leave my best friend for a life of boredom and rules?" I snapped back.

"He's a traitor, Athena! He'll use as a hostage. Place a ransom on your head so that Darkoba's enemies can kill you!" Joel said, growling slightly.

"Talon would never do that! He cares about me! He knows better than you probably do!" I said.

"You actually care about him? He's a traitor, a rebel. He's got nothing. What could he ever give you?" Joel said, growling and avoiding saying Talon's name.

"He's already given me something, a new outlook on life." I say.

"A new outlook on life? What's that supposed to mean?" Joel scoffed.

"It means that I can survive on my own if I have to. I've learned how to fight and defend myself, and I've learned to appreciate what I have in life. I don't know about you, but I like this life. It's got more adventure in it." I say, glaring at my brother.

"You're so naive, Athena. You have no idea what you're getting into if you stay with, him." Joel says. I growl at how he mentions Talon. Joel glares at me. "You have no idea what can happen in this world, all of the horrors it can bring. Do you want to be in a real war, Athena? One where the lives of real people are at risk." I shake my head. "That's what I thought."

"What do you want Joel? Why are you here?" I ask.

"I want you to come home. Be with our family. Go back to living the life you had before." Joel says, trying to persuade me.

"The life I had before was boring. All I ever wanted was to go somewhere and do something with my life instead of politics, ordering people around, and staying cooped up in that castle." I snap back. "Now that I've gotten out, I don't want to be back in. I'm tired of having my life laid out before me. I'm making my own decisions now!"

"Fine. Don't come back! But you'll regret it! You're going to wake up one day, starving, cold, and thirsty. But don't expect to be welcomed when you come crawling back to Darkoba with your sorry excuses." Joel snarls. "You'll see the light and try and come back one day."

"Don't count on it." I snarl at him. Then, I'm flying through the trees again. I don't bother looking back. I know Joel isn't following me. Looking out over the ocean, I see the moon is almost above horizon. Time to go meet Talon at the bridge.

\* \* \*

><p><span><strong>Talon's POV<strong>

The leaves cast shadows along the ground, making it perfect for me to sneak around in. Staying unseen and waiting for dark so me and Athena could escape.

Scenting the air, I spin around. "If you want to sneak up on me, it's best if you do it up wind and in the dark, when I'm not trying to avoid you." I said, smirking slightly.

Finley emerged from the shadows just behind me, showing his ugly face and giving a fake smile. "You have good skills for someone with no professional training." He said. "You'd do well in the royal army. Probably earn a high rank as well."

"I'm not falling for your lies. I'll be jailed or executed if I ever step foot near the kingdoms again." I snarl.

"True, true." Finley replied, keeping surprisingly calm. "It'd be a shame too, if Athena would have to watch that." I flinched at how he said her name. Finley saw this and smirked. "She shouldn't even be all the way out here. It's too dangerous for someone like her. I mean, we wouldn't want someone as beautiful as her to get hurt, now would we."

"You and I are not on the same team." I hiss.

"Oh, and here I thought we could try and be friends." He said sarcastically. "But you know I'm right. Athena would never survive out here without you. You're the only reason that she's even still here. However, I can change that\_."

"What are you going to do? Kill me?" I say, getting into a defensive stance.

"Somewhere along those lines." Finley says, still not in a fighting position. "Then I will take Athena back to her parents, who will reward me for rescuing her. Then, we'll be married, she will be my queen, and I will keep her safely in my castle in Shakola, far away from you\_."

"You don't deserve her. She'd never agree to that anyways." I snarl.

"It's not really an option. Arranged marriages are arranged, no matter what the bride says. That's how it is with royal life, Talon. Not that you'd ever understand." He growls. I growl back at him.

"You're a peasant. You have nothing. I don't know what she could ever see in you." He says, circling me.

"And you are an arrogant, stuck up, disgusting, spoilt prince who couldn't be a king if he tried\_." I growl back.

He pounced at me, but I dodge out of the way, slashing him with my claws. He tackles me to the ground, biting my wing. I use my tail to push him off and then hit him, slashing with my claws again.

He growls and heads off into the bushes, probably to get reinforcements. "

"That's right. Run away to your hired muscle to protect you." I yell after him. Not sticking around to fight off the other soldiers, I fly to the meeting place at the bridge by the humans fighting arena. Athena is. There waiting for me.

"You're hurt." She says, noticing he scratches Finley left.

"It's nothing, I'm fine." I say. "Let's just get off of this island."

## 20. Fleeing Evil

**\*\*Hey guys! Here's the latest chapter! Hope you all enjoy it. Please review!\*\***

\* \* \*

><p>Athena and Talon spent the next few days flying over the ocean until they reached land. This land was strange to them. There were forests like the ones outside Darkoba, but there were humans living in small tribes, gathering and hunting from the land and catching fish from the sea. The oceans here were much colder than the ones near Berkoshta, and had many more fish. This provided the two dragons with an adequate food source as they continued to fly south. As they flew south, the terrain changed many times. They crossed forests, wetlands, and deserts over many days of almost non-stop flying. Soon, the climate became more of a tropical wetland, and the two night furies finally came to rest on the edge of a tropical forest by a beach in the southern most point of land they could find.<p>

Talon scanned the tree line, looking for any signs of danger before they went on. "Okay, I think it's safe."

"So, what are we going to do now?" Athena asked as they darted waking through the tropical forest, keeping the coast in close range.

"We'll rest here for the day, and maybe tomorrow as well. Then we'll keep flying south until we reach the islands." Talon said, stopping to watch a colourful beetle buzz past.

"And then where will we go? How are we supposed to know which island the fountain of youth is on?" Athena said, walking next to him.

"We'll know it when we see it." Talon replied. "That tree looks good."

"We're sleeping in a tree?" Athena asked skeptically.

"Yes. Do you have a problem with that?" Talon said, giving her a look and then leaping up to a branch.

"Why don't we just sleep on the ground?"

"Because I'm not familiar with this territory, and I don't know what lives here." Talon answered. Athena looked at him skeptically. "And I saw a poisonous rattle snake earlier." He added.

"What!?" Athena yelled, looking around frantically and then jumping up into the tree with Talon.

"Welcome to the real world." Talon muttered, testing the strength of another branch higher up.

"I can still hear you." Athena growled. Talon just rolled his eyes and smirked.

The two continued to climb until they found a strong branch to sleep on. Athena perched on the branch just above where Talon was hanging by his tail.

"So, uh... Athena trailed off.

"What?"

"I was just wondering, what happened when we were separated on Berkoshta." Athena said, trying to be casual.

"Why do you mean, what happened?" Talon asked, looking up at her confused.

"Like, did you run into anybody or talk to anyone?" Athena said, looking through the trees.

"I ran into Finley. He's still set on having you for his own." Talon said. "Why, did you run into anyone?"

Athena looked through the forest, avoiding Talon's eyes. "I talked to my brother." She answered quietly.

"Something tells me that didn't go very well." Talon said, climbing back up to sit in the branch next to her. Athena just shook her head. "What happened?"

"He tried to convince me to go back." Athena said. "And he tried to turn me against you."

"He really doesn't like me, does he?" Talon said.

"I'm serious." Athena said, looking at Talon. Talon looked into her eyes, making her swallow nervously and look away again. "He said you were going to use me. Get money from people who wanted me dead." She choked out.

"Why would I ever do that!?" Talon said. "Athena, look at me." He used his tail to turn her head towards his. "I would never do anything to hurt you. Ever."

"I know." Athena whispered.

Talon leaned and gently placed his lips in Athena's. The kiss lasted only a second, but to them it felt like hours.

Talon looked at Athena, slightly awkward. "So, uh, I guess we should get some rest or something." He said, swinging down so that he was hanging by his tail again.

"Um, yeah." Athena agrees, scanning the branch for a pace to

sleep.

"Come here." Talon said, motioning for Athena to hang upside down next to him. She did, but misjudged the placing and ended up with her head resting on Talon's neck.

Athena giggles, and Talon smiled and wrapped his wings around her. The two night furies, exhausted from traveling so far, fell asleep hanging from the tree in the forest, the light of day just starting to shine over the ocean's horizon.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>- a few hours later -<strong>

Athena eyes shot open. The noise was back. She kept hearing it, a low growl coming from the ground below. Looking down on the ground for movement, she only saw fallen leaves and the plants that grew on the forest floor. Looking up through the trees to the sky, Athena saw that the sun was just starting to set, colouring the sky with streaks of pink and orange.

She heard the noise again. Trying to stay quiet, she nudged Talon. "Wake up."

Talon mumbled in his sleep, wrapping his wings around her more.

"Talon. Wake up!" Athena said a bit louder.

"What?" Talon mumbled, opening his eyes a tiny bit.

"There's something on the ground below us." Athena whispered.

"It's a jungle. We're not the only ones that are here." Talon said, closing his eyes again. The growling noise sounded again, and Talon's eyes snapped open. "What was that?"

"Told you." Athena said, getting up and perching on the branch, focusing on the ground. Talon stood next to her, scanning the forest floor for signs of movement.

"See anything?" Athena asked.

"No."

"Hear anything?"

"I hear a women's voice."

"Who is it?"

"You. Be quiet." Talon said, smirking. Athena glared at him, but turned away to hide a smile.

"Wait, something moved!" Talon said.

"What was it?"

"I don't know." Talon answered. "Follow me. Only step on the branches

I step on."

Athena nodded and followed as they quietly made their way down the tree. As they got to the ground, Talon motioned for Athena to keep quiet.

A bush moved and a reptile with a long face and a body covered in armored scales crawled toward them. The creature stood very low to the ground, its belly dragging against the fallen leaves. Four other identical creatures followed it, making the growling noise heard earlier.

"What are they?" Athena asked.

"I have no idea." Talon said. "I've never seen anything like it."

"They don't look very fast." Athena said. "Or have wings. Do you think they can breathe fire?"

"I don't know." Talon said. "Do you think they talk?"

Athena shrugged, and Talon slowly approached the lead creature. The creature eyes him cautiously, making the growling sound again. As Talon got closer, the creature lunged towards him, snapping it's jaws to reveal many sharp pointed teeth. The creatures growled and started making their way towards the dragons.

"We should probably get out of here." Talon said. Athena nodded, and the two quickly made their way through the forest and onto the beach.

"Do you think we lost them?" Athena said.

Talon looked back and saw the creatures emerging from the trees. "Nope."

"Well now what?" Athena asked, backing towards the water more. Talon shot a plasma blast towards one of the creatures to warn it off. The creature was startled but kept its pursuit.

"Fly!" Talon said. Athena took off and flew above the water. Talon turned and flew after her, the creature's jaws narrowly missing his tail.

Safely in the air, Athena looked down as the creatures looked up confusedly at the dragons in the air and then made their way across the beach into the water.

"They swim." Athena said.

Talon nodded. "Come on. It's getting dark. We might as well set off now and find an island to rest on later."

"Kay. Can we stop on the first island we see though?" Athena said.

"Sure." Talon agreed, also being tired from their long journey.

The two black dragons flew across the ocean in the darkening sky,

flying far above the water unless they were catching fish. Eventually, about half way through the night, they stopped on a tiny island that was just big enough for the two on them to sleep on.

"This island is pretty small. You sure you don't want to keep flying and find a bigger one?" Talon said.

"I don't care." Athena said, lying down on the sand under the single palm tree. "I just want to sleep."

"Fine by me." Talon said, lying next to her. The two of them fell asleep instantly.

Just off the island, two round eyes dipped below the water, keeping careful watch of the newcomers to its water territory.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>So in case you didn't already realize, the creatures in this story were crocodiles, or alligators, or whichever one of those lives in Florida. I've also never been to Florida so I hope I was okay at describing it. I also didn't really know how to describe crocodile sounds, so I did my best. Hope you enjoyed the chapter!<strong>

## 21. Demons of The Water

Talon and Athena woke up as the moon reached its highest point in the sky. Well, Talon woke up. He nudged Athena who mumbled in the sleep next to him. "Hm? What? What happened?" She said tiredly, blinking awake.

"Hey. Relax. Just think we should at moving again." Talon said.

"But we've been travelling forever." Athena said tiredly, setting her was back down on the ground. "Just five more minutes?"

"Alright, five more minutes. But then we have to get going again." Talon said, rolling his eyes. Athena mumbled something Talon couldn't hear before falling asleep. Talon looked down at her before standing up and walking the few steps to the waters' edge. Looking out over the water, he noticed a movement, and blinking, he looked closer.

\* \* \*

><p><span><strong>Talon's POV<strong>

The movement in the water didn't look like waves. It moved different, like it was disturbed by something swimming underneath the surface. I just wasn't sure what it was. I scanned the water for any movement. Suddenly I heard a small splashing noise and a slight giggle to my left. And that's when I saw it.

Or her. There was a beautiful human with a long fish tail instead of legs. Her hair was very long, falling down past her waist. She looked out over the water at the moon, glancing at me and giggling occasionally. I stepped closer to her, and she looked into my eyes.

My brain started to go fuzzy and I couldn't think straight. I stepped closer to her, and she moved away, deeper into the water. I followed her, wading into the water. And then she started to sing.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>Athena's POV<strong>

I blinked awake at the sound of a woman singing softly. It sounded very sweet, but haunting at the same time. Looking around, I saw Talon wading out into the water.

"Talon." I call to him. He doesn't respond, stepping deeper into the water.

"Talon, we have to get going." I call out to him again. He still doesn't respond. Since when has he ever ignored me?

I hear the singing again, the haunting voice floating through the air. I turn to my left and come face to face with a pair of eyes.

The eyes were round, like an owl's, and a deep yellow colour. They were the strangest eyes I had ever seen.

Even stranger was the body the eyes were attached too. The creature had high, prominent cheek bones and a slight ridge or crest over the top of its head. Its hair was wet and fell in tangled strands down its shoulders to its tail. The tail had scales like a fish. Its hands had webbing between its fingers and there were patches of scales over its bluish skin.

I knew what this creature was. Months of reading books in the library let me define this creature immediately. It was a mermaid.

I looked over to Talon. Just as I thought, he was following one of the creatures, and it was singing to him, hypnotizing him under its spell.

"Talon!" I yell after him, splashing through the shallow water. The creature that was watching me quickly swam in front of me, hissing at me and revealing fangs. I growled back at it, warning the mermaid to get out of my way. It didn't move, so I shot fire at it.

The mermaid screamed as its arm burned, diving back into the deeper water. My ears rang from the mermaids loud cries. I hurried over to Talon, knowing that the mermaid I had burned would be back, with many more of her sisters.

The mermaid hypnotizing Talon hissed as I approached. I hissed back, shooting a warning shot at it. It hissed back at me again, swimming further into the deeper waters.

And Talon followed. I knew he could swim, but the mermaids mind control disabled the victims thought process, so they didn't swim automatically once in water. I knew that if I didn't help Talon, he would drown. Or be attacked by mermaids, either one resulting in his death.

I lunge into the water and swim towards Talon, grabbing him and dragging him back towards the island. Looking around the water, I see that there are at least fifteen mermaids swimming towards us, along with the one hypnotizing Talon glaring at me, and the one I burned swimming towards me, its eyes burning with hatred.

Hauling Talon into the sand bank, I turn to see the mermaids poking their heads above the surface. More mermaids have joined them, and I'm sure even more are swimming below the water's surface.

Talon gets up and moves towards the mermaids again. "Talon, we need to leave!" I yell at him. He doesn't respond, staring out at the mermaids with glassed over eyes.

"Snap out of it!" I yell, slapping him across the face with my tail.

"Ow!" He yells. "What the hell!"

"Not my fault you were hypnotized!" I say.

"Hypnotized!?" He says, looking confused. I motion behind me to the mermaids in the water behind us.

"Oh."

I roll my eyes. "Don't look I to their eyes, unless you want to drown."

"Yeah, we should probably leave now." Talon says.

"Thank you!" I say. We both take off vertically, flying as fast as we can. Our wings are still tired though, and we end up flying near the water.

A mermaid, the one I burned, leaps out of the water and nearly takes me out of the air. I fly up quickly, as does Talon. More mermaids are jumping up towards us, some of them holding spears and hooks made from bones and spines of other fish. Others that stay in the water hiss at us, their fangs glinting in the moonlight.

"Why are they still attacking us?" I think out loud.

"Maybe we trespassed into their territory or something?" Talon suggests.

I nod silently in agreement as we continue flying away from the mermaids. We fly for what seems like hours until the mermaids stop following and are far behind us. Soon, we find an island, considerably bigger than the one we have previously been on. It's covered in tropical jungle with beaches surrounding it just before the waters' edge.

We find a clearing and land quickly, collapsing onto the grass. For a flying creature, I'm so happy to be on land that I could kiss the ground.

"Can we sleep for a while now?" I ask Talon.

"Definitely" he answers. And with that I drift into a deep,

dreamless, peaceful sleep.

## 22. New Allies, New Challenges

**\*\*Athena's POV\*\***

I blinked awake next to Talon, looking around where we were. I was lying in clearing surrounded by tropical jungle. Judging by the smell and the sound of distant waves, the island was fairly small and the ocean is nearby. Taking a minute, I remember what happened and how we got here, running away from Darkoba and Berkoshta, Joel, Finley, and Tess chasing us, probably still chasing us.

\_ 'What will we do if they catch us?\_' I think.

"Fight them off." I hear Talon say next to me. I glare at him and he smiles. "You still think out loud too often."

I roll my eyes and get up, only to be tackled to the ground. "Hey!" I yell. I hear Talon growling. He must have been caught as well.

Looking up, I see a Night Fury. Except it's not a Night Fury. I mean she looks like one, but her scales are bright blue instead of black, and her eyes are yellow. "Who are you!?" She growls at me.

"Who are you!?" I snap back, not thinking. This makes her look shocked for a second. Then she just smirks.

"You're in no position to ask me questions. If you haven't noticed, I am the one who has you pinned to the ground, so start talking." She says.

I use my tail to grab her wing, jerking it so she falls off me. I move swiftly, pinning her wings behind her so she can't move. "Start talking." I smirk at her.

Hearing a snarl I look up to see Talon fighting another Night Fury. Except this Night Fury is also not coloured like a Night Fury, with bright red scales. His eyes are also blue.

Talon tackles the other Fury and pins him to the ground. "You're both caught now. So who are you and why did you attack us?" He snarls.

The blue scales Fury talks first. "I'm Raine, and that's my brother Phoenix." She says.

"And you're in our territory." Phoenix says, glaring at Talon.

"We're just travelling. We'll leave soon." I say, letting Raine get up. Talon reluctantly lets Phoenix go as well.

"Where are you going? Not very many places to travel around here, unless you're headed to the southern land mass. If you are then you took a wrong turn. Easiest way to get there is farther west from here, closer to land." Phoenix says.

"We're going to the fountain of youth." Talon says.

The other Fury's eyes widen. "Are you crazy!? You can't just go to the fountain of youth. It's incredibly dangerous! \_You could die\_, making it pointless to go there!" Raine says.

"Well we're going there anyway." Talon says.

"Do you know which island it's on?" I ask.

"Yes. There's a map with the instructions on how to get there that we found when we came here." Raine answers.

"Great. Where is this map?" I say.

"I burnt it." Phoenix says, smiling cheekily.

"You \_what\_?" Talon says, glaring at Phoenix, who keeps smiling like a lunatic.

"You heard me, I burnt it!" He says proudly. "After me and Raine memorized it."

"And this is the part where you beg us to take you to the fountain." Raine says. "Oh no, we really shouldn't, but if you insist. Oh alright! Fine! We'll do it! We'll take you to the cursed island of death so you can find your precious fountain of immortality!"

"Exactly how long have you guys been here?" Talon says. He leans closer to me. "They're \_absolutely insane!\_"

"Then you'll get along with them perfectly." I whisper back to him, smiling. Turning back to Phoenix and Raine, I question them more. "So how do we get there?"

"Right. You have to overcome a challenge on an island. When you complete the challenge on one island, the next one comes into view." Raine explains.

"You have to go on one island first, and then another island will appear. That will happen so that you hoist four islands. After the final island you will be able to go onto the island with the fountain." Phoenix says.

"Are you sure you guys want to do this though. We've seen a few people who have gone searching for the island and none of them have ever come back." Raine cautions.

"We're going to the island." Talon says.

"Okay." Raine says. "You know what, you guys seem nice. We'll go with you to make sure you don't die."

"Only two the second last island though." Phoenix says.

"Thanks." I say. "Where do we go first?"

"Follow us." Raine says. Me and Talon set off behind them, watching amused my as they argue over who will lead us to the first island.

It's only a few islands we have to cross. How hard can it be?

\* \* \*

><p><span><strong>\*With Finley, Tess, and Joel\*<strong>

Finley, Tess, Joel, and the soldiers following them landed on the beach of the southernmost part of the peninsula they could find. There were many little birds and insects, as well as some smaller mammals and lizards, eyeing the strange creatures.

"We should continue south. If we fly fast then we might be able to catch up with them. There's got to be something that will slow them down." Finley said.

"Woah, woah, woah! Who made you leader of the group?!" Joel said angrily.

"Well I'm a future king, and we're after my bride and the guy that took her, so that makes me leader." Finley replied smugly.

"I'm a future king to, of the country where we started the search. And we're looking for my sister, and the guy that took her. And I'm older, so that makes me leader!" Joel said.

"Uh, your judgment is clouded by anger!" Finley said.

"So is yours!" Joel shouted.

The two princes eyed each other, looking ready for a fight. Finley struck out first, using a tail slap to hit Joel in the face. Joel counter attacked by lunging at Finley and pushing him over with a wing.

The two boys then attacked each other, snarling, clawing, and biting. "I will be leader! We're going south!" Finley said.

"No we're heading back to Darkoba! For all we know they tricked us and turned back towards better known territory!" Joel said.

"Fine! Go back to Darkoba. Tell my after that I'm not giving up the search!" Finley said.

Joel growled at Finley and took off, heading north again. The soldiers soon followed him.

"You coming Tess?" Finley said, getting ready to head further south.

"Of course, my king." Tess said, following Finley as they headed in the direction that they guessed Athena and Talon had gone.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>Sorry for the long wait guys. Been really busy with school and life. :p Anyways, Finley's still a creep in this story, which never changes by the way. Also, Raine and Phoenix are Night Furies, they just have different scale colours, so they aren't black but are instead blue and red. They also play an important supporting role in the story, so they're important. Also, if anyone has

interesting made up country names, I would love to hear them. If I find one I like I might put it in this story later on. Thanks for reading! And please review!<strong>

**\*\*Also thanks to all those that have reviewed this story so far.  
\*\***

**\*\*Sapphire  
Roz\*\***

**\*\*Proud2beMexican\*\***

**\*\*AliceCullen3\*\***

**\*\*SmokeyStorm\*\***

**\*\*slayer134\*\***

**\*\*Huennekens\*\***

**\*\*johnnylee619\*\***

**\*\*skalblaka\*\***

**\*\*Crazy-Shanagins\*\***

**\*\*BoltandMaybelle4ever\*\***

**\*\*DragonDude23\*\***

**\*\*thetravellingfrost\*\***

**\*\*Not Just Ordinary\*\***

**\*\*Th3-Dragon-Lord\*\***

**\*\*Kasha  
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**\*\*DianaxAkiraFTW\*\***

**\*\*sandifurclayton\*\***

**\*\*And all of the anonymous reviewers, except one (you know who you are)\*\***

**\*\*Thanks for all of your support you guys! I probably wouldn't continue this story if you didn't read it.\*\***

## 23. Mad Cow Disease

**\*\*Athena's POV\*\***

Raine and Phoenix led us to an island, where we landed on the beach. The island has a huge red stone mountain on it, covering most of the

island. The coast only has a sandy beach, along with a few trees and bushes around the cliffs of the mountain.

"This doesn't look so bad." Talon said. "We just have to fly over the mountain and we'll see the next island."

"Um, yeah. There's more to this challenge than you think." Raine said.

Talon tried to take off, but his wings didn't lift him off the ground, no matter how hard he tried. "Why can't I fly!?" He said, frustrated.

"Once you land on the island, you're not allowed to fly over it or across it." Phoenix said. "You have to walk."

"Over the mountain?" Talon said.

"No." I say. "Under it." I motion to a cave entrance into the mountain. "We have to go through the mountain right."

"You catch on quickly." Raine says, smiling as we start walking towards the cave.

"Nice job princess." Talon whispers to me. I roll my eyes.

As we walk through the cave, it becomes apparent that this is no ordinary cave. It isn't dark, instead it is dimly lit. The light reflecting off of the rock leaves the cave a dingy red colour. Soon, the cave splits into three caves, each going a different direction.

"Which way do we go?" Raine asks.

"You don't know where we're supposed to go?" I ask. "You said you knew how to get through the challenges!"

"I said we knew the instructions to get there. Meaning, I knew that we need to go one island at a time to get to the final island. I didn't say I knew exactly how to get through the challenges." Raine said.

"Well what are the challenges?" I ask.

"The challenges involve something to do with thirst and hunger, something to do with surviving an apocalyptic-like environment, and something to do with all your secrets being revealed." Raine answered. "I can't remember the exact wording of the map, but that's basically what it said."

"And what challenge are we doing now?" Talon asked.

"We have to get through a maze while something is chasing us." Phoenix said.

"What's chasing us?" Talon said warily.

As Phoenix shrugged, loud footsteps sounded from one of the caves. A tall figure came out from the shadows. It had the form of a bull, but stood like a human. It held an axe in its hand, and stared at us with

a murderous glare.

"Run!" Talon yelled. The four of us took off through one of the caves, which led us to more and more tunnels in the mountain. We had no idea where we were or how to get out. Eventually we left the creature far back enough that we could slow to a quick walk for a bit.

"What the hell is that!?" Raine asked.

"It's a Minotaur." I answer.

"A what!?" Talon and Phoenix say.

"A Minotaur. A creature that's half human-half bull or oxen. They're really aggressive and don't like anybody." I say. "If someone bothers them, they'll find them and kill them."

"Great. We're lost in a tunnel, being chased by a rabid, blood thirsty cow man." Talon said. The footsteps and angry roars of the Minotaur soon became louder.

"We should probably go." I say.

We keep running, but the caves and tunnels go on and on, without seeming to stop. Soon, we're all out of breath from what seems like hours of running, and we are forced to stop.

"What, are we going, to do?" Phoenix says between breathes.

"Keep running until we find the exit?" Raine says.

"That thing will catch up to us. We'll never be able to keep up running for this long." Talon says.

They keep talking about what to do, but I get distracted by one of the caves branching off from where we are.

"You guys." I call. "This cave looks lighter than the others!"

"Maybe it leads to the exit!" Raine said.

"Should we try it?" Phoenix asks. The Minotaur gets even closer, and we can see his faint shadow.

"I don't think we have much of a choice." Talon says. We all run through the tunnel. It gets lighter and lighter. Pretty soon, I can see the exit.

The end of the tunnel opens to a beach like the one we started at. Without thinking, I leap into the air and glide in circles. The others follow me, with the Minotaur just behind us.

He roared angrily and then stalked back to the mountain, disappearing into the darkness of the maze of caves. We all circle in the air, watching until he disappeared.

"That was only the first challenge?" Talon says.

"Yep, first of four." Phoenix answers.

"We could have just fought the Minotaur." I say.

"He would have eaten you!" Raine exclaimed.

"He wouldn't have liked it." I muttered quietly.

"So now what?" Talon asks, looking around.

"We go to the next island." Raine says.

"What island?" Talon says.

"That island." Phoenix says. We all turn to see an island in the close distance shimmering into view.

"That wasn't there before." I say.

"The islands appear once you've completed a challenge." Raine says. "That's the island where the next challenge."

Talon nods, catching an air current and leading the way to the island. "Well let's go then."

\* \* \*

><p><strong>\*\*with Tess and Finley\*\* No POV<strong>

Finley looked down at the sea they were flying above. He and Tess were flying high up above the ocean, almost to the point where the air was hard to breath. Below in the distance was a tropical island where they had found Talon and Athena's previous camp. Now they were flying south, towards where they thought the two had gone. Below was another island with a mountain on it.

"How long do you thin not will take to catch up to them?" Finley asked Tess, breaking the silence.

"It shouldn't take long now." Tess answered. "What will you do when we catch them?"

"I don't know. I mean obviously I'm going to take Athena back, become a hero for doing so, and then she'll be mine. But I'm not sure whether or not to kill Talon when we find him, or take him back so Athena can watch him be executed." Finley said thoughtfully.

"Hm. Very diabolical." Tess said.

Finley nodded, looking down towards the sea again. A shimmering caught his eye, and he say an island appear out of nowhere.

"Did that island just appear out of nowhere?" Finley asked out loud.

"Yes." Tess said.

"How?"

"There are islands here that are under a spell. You can only get to

the next island after you cross the one before." Tess said.

"But we haven't been on any islands since this morning." Finley said.

"We can see where Talon and Athena are by seeing the islands that appear for them to cross." Tess explained.

"How?" Finley asked again.

"I may have picked up a few tricks and spells from Zaltana." Tess smirked.

"Very devious." Finley said approvingly.

The two continued on, circling as they scouted the new island to spot the dragons they were searching for.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>So, yeah. The minotaur is based on a myth, I think it's Greek, about a minotaur in some tunnels. The people that went into the tunnels had string that they used to find their way out with. I'm not sure the exact myth, but it's a pretty cool story. So the minotaur was the first challenge. There will be three more, and then they get to the fountain of youth. Anyone guess what the other challenges will be? (apocalyptic-like environment; thirst and hunger; secrets revealed)<strong>

## 24. Las Islas de la Muerte

\*\*So originally this was going to be two chapters, but they were too short so I put them together, and I actually like it better this way. So I hope you guys like the chapter. Also, the title should translate to "the islands of death" but I'm not the best at Spanish. The rules for the islands are the same as the last one. Once you land, you can't fly away; you can't get off until you reach the other side of the island or overcome the challenge. You can only see the next island after you've completed the challenge on the island you're on.\*\*

\* \* \*

><p><strong>"Las Islas de la Muerte"<strong>

\* \* \*

><p><span><strong>No POV<strong>

The four Furies landed on the second challenge island, and were immediately greeted by a dismal sight. A forest appeared to cover the island. But instead of trees, the forest was made of bones. There were no birds chirping or anything, just silence.

"Well isn't this just great." Talon said sarcastically.

"Oh come on. It's not that bad. We just have to walk through that creepy, horrifying forest of bones." Athena said. "Right?"

"Let's hope that it's just a forest of bones and that nothing else lives here." Raine said, shivering at the thought.

The four started walking. The deeper into the forest they went, the creepier it got. There were bones from different species, human, dragons, deer, fish, and countless other animals. The ground was dusty, and the air was dry and hot.

"I'm hungry." Phoenix said.

"You're always hungry!" Raine said.

"Actually I'm kind of hungry to." Talon said.

"Yeah. It's not like we've had anything to eat recently." Athena joined in.

They all stopped and looked expectantly at Raine. "Ugh, fine. We'll see if there's any food here while we walk." She said, rolling her eyes.

As the four continued, it became clear that there was no living thing on the island at all. There wasn't any water, and there wasn't any food, and there were no plants. By the time they came the opposite shore of the island, they were all starving and very thirsty, and exhausted from the heat.

"That wasn't really much of a challenge." Athena commented as they took off sluggishly.

"And you're complaining about that?" Raine said.

"No. I'm just stating a fact." Athena replied.

The next island was a complete opposite of the bone forest island. It had a lush tropical forest covering it, with many pools of water. Birds sang in the trees, which had plenty of fruit. A river could be heard just inland.

"Oh! Food!" Phoenix said joyously, running up to a small tree.

"You're eating plants?!" Raine said, astounded. "We're carnivores!"

"I'm hungry and desperate!" He yelled back, taking a big bite out of the closest fruit he could find.

Athena walked up to the red dragon. "You know that's poisonous, right?"

Phoenix immediately spit out the fruit. "What!?"

"Hey look! Water!" Talon said, going towards a pool of water.

Phoenix charged towards the pool, but as soon as he got near it fish with teeth almost too big for their faces jumped out at him. One of them latched onto his ear flap.

"Ahh! GET IT OFF! GET IT OFF! GET IT OFF!" He yelled.

Raine slapped the fish, and Phoenix's face, with her tail, sending the fish back towards the pool.

When Phoenix had calmed down, he finally spoke. "That pool is full if killer fish."

"Really, I hadn't noticed." Talon said sarcastically. "Maybe we should try another pool, see if that one's safe to drink from."

"Sure!" Phoenix agreed. So they went to find another pool, the girls following behind them. When they found another pool, they were almost close enough to drink, when a small bird landed on the top of the water. "Looks safe enough." Phoenix said.

As soon as he said that, a fish swam up, grabbed the bird and it was never seen again.

"So." Athena said. "If you guys are done trying to kill yourselves, I'd like I get moving."

The boys nodded and followed Athena and Raine through the forest of poisonous fruits and plants, pools with killer fish, and birds that they couldn't catch because the islands forbid them to fly away.

Soon the roar of the river got louder, and a break on the trees appeared. "Maybe we can drink from the river!?" Raine said hopefully. The four ran to the river bed.

The river was wide, and flowed over many rocks, causing small rapids. The only problem, it was thick, and red, and it didn't run with water. The river ran red with blood.

"What the hell is this!?" Talon said. "Why is there a river of blood!? How is this even possible!?"

"We can at least follow the river to the shore, right?" Athena said.

"Let's follow it from the forest, I don't want to look at that all day." Raine said turning and walking back to the poisonous trees. Phoenix sighed and followed, as did Talon and Athena. By the time they reached the island's shore, they were even more exhausted than they were earlier. Their stomachs ached from hunger, and their tongues were dry.

The sun was beginning to set as they landed on the fourth island. This island had a huge, grey mountain on it. By the shore there was a small forest and a pool full of fresh water and edible fish. The dragons all ate their fill, and then rested in the shade of the trees.

"So this is where we're going to leave you." Raine said.

"You're not going through the final challenge? After you went through all the others, you're just going to go back?" Athena said.

"We just wanted to help you get here. There's no need for us to go to the fountain." Raine said.

"You guys seem nice though. Hope you don't die." Phoenix smiled.  
"Come see us on the trip back!"

"Good luck!" Raine said. And then the blue and red furies left for their own island, leaving Athena and Talon once again alone.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>So basically, the bone island was a set up for the island where there's a lot of resources that you can't have. You know, make you really hungry and exhausted, but then when you get to the island you are surrounded by fresh water you can't get to and food you can't eat. That could drive someone crazy. Depends on how desperate you are. So I hope you enjoyed the chapter. For the next chapter, if you guys have any ideas that would work with the story about Talon's past, let me know.<strong>

## 25. Hidden Truths, Hidden Secrets

\*\*Hi! Sorry for such a long wait. I had exams, and then we were travelling a lot, and my house is getting renovated. My life's just really busy right now. But to make it up to you guys, I've written the longest chapter I've written so far! Over 3000 words! So I hope you like it! And thanks to everyone who's reviewed, to the 58 people who have followed, and the 48 people who have favourited this story! I means so much to me that you like the stories I write! You're all awesome!\*\*

\* \* \*

><p>The two Night Furies, watched as their former travelling companions, now just blue and red dots in the sky, disappeared from sight.<p>

"So now what?" Athena said, a hint of excitement in her voice.

"You certainly sound excited for someone who is about to face a challenge that could possibly mean certain death." Talon said sarcastically.

"Yeah, but we're almost through the last challenge. And then we get to the fountain of youth. And then i'm probably going to turn into an immortal queen that could have awesome powers. I have a reason to be excited." Athena replied.

"Fair point. So, what do you think this next challenge is?"

"I have no idea!" Athena said excitedly, getting up and starting to walk down the beach.

"Where are you going?" Talon got up and ran after her.

"Well, we didn't see anything on the beach when we flew here, so maybe there's a cave or something, like the first challenge."

"Smart." Talon agreed. "Let's not split up though. There could still be something dangerous, and we have no idea if there's anyone else here." Athena rolled her eyes, but agreed, and the two started searching the mountain side from the beach. They walked almost around the entire island when Talon spotted a path that lead up the mountain from the shore. The path was steep and went around and up the mountain. At the end of the path was a flat area of rock, a dead end.

"Great, we walked up almost the entire mountain for nothing!" Talon exclaimed, sitting down and glaring at the path for making their hours of walking pointless.

Athena ignored Talon and went up to the cliff face where the path stopped. \_It can't just stop there. Why would there be a path to nowhere?\_

"Maybe that's the challenge." Athena thought out loud. "Maybe there are more paths like this one, and only one leads to where we want to go."

"That's a possibility." Talon said. "Let's rest for a while and see if we can find another path later."

Athena nodded and looked at the rock, trying to see if it held anymore secrets, or if it really was just a dead end. As she looked closer, she noticed tiny writing on the rock wall. Looking closer, she tried to read it.

\_Secrets hidden from preying eyes\_

\_Will be revealed by glass inside.\_

\_Gaze upon present, look to the past.\_

\_Time will tell, fate will decide.\_

As Athena finished reading, the rock wall cracked, and a huge cloud of dust exploded from the wall. The black dragon jumped back and coughed.

"What did you do?" Talon asked.

"I just read the writing. I swear I didn't touch anything!" Athena said, still coughing.

"What writing?"

"The writing on the wall. It was really tiny."

Talon nodded slightly and stepped forward to the wall. The dust had cleared away, revealing a portion of the stone wall cracked open. Talon used a paw to push on the stone, and it slowly swung open like a heavy door would. Inside the mountain, the path continued through the mountain into a dark cave.

"Should we follow it?" Athena asked.

"Well I don't see what else there is to do." Talon replied, stepping forward onto the dark path. Athena followed, but once they were both

in the cave, the stone moved back to it's original place and locked behind them. After several minutes of pushing on the rock wall and firing plasma blasts at it, the dragons were left with no other option but to continue on the path.

Inside the mountain was too dark to see. Each took turns using echolocation to see if there were any obstacles in the way or where the end was, but the path was clear and there was no end in sight.

"So," Talon said, his voice echoing off the cold stone walls, "what exactly did the writing say when you read it?"

"Secrets hidden from preying eyes, will be revealed by glass inside. Gaze upon present, look to the past. Time will tell, fate will decide." Athena recited. "What do you think that means?" she asked as Talon released another sound wave.

"I don't know, but we're about to find out. The cave opens up just ahead." Just after that, Athena and Talon stepped into a huge cave inside the mountain. Glow worms hanging from the ceiling produced a faint light, and there was a huge, still pool of water.

"The water is so clear." Athena said, gazing at the dots of light from the glow worms reflected by the unnaturally still water. "It almost looks like—" "

"Glass." Talon finished her sentence. "This must be the last challenge."

"But what are we supposed to do?" Athena asked.

"One of you must reveal your secrets." An echoey voice said. The two night furies whipped around. The voice that had spoken was the voice of a glowing human woman. She was almost completely translucent, and dressed in a flowing blue robe. Her hair was long and white, even though she looked fairly young. She glowed with a light blue aura that lit up the cave around where she stood.

"Who are you?" Athena said.

"I am the Keeper of Secrets." The woman said. "In order for you two to pass, one of you must reveal your secrets in the pool of glass."

"If we reveal our secrets, who would know?" Talon asked warily.

"Only your companion, the glow worms, and myself would see what was shown in the pool." The keeper said. "It is your choice of who else you tell your secrets to."

"What happens if we don't want to reveal our secrets?" Talon challenged.

"Then you will stay in this cave until you choose to share your secrets or you die." The Keeper of Secrets said. The woman turned and walked out over the glass like water, her footsteps leaving the surface of the pool still undisturbed.

"So which one of us is going to 'reveal our secrets'?" Athena said.

"I don't know." Talon said.

"I can." Athena suggested.

"No, she might not accept that." Talon answered, referring to the glowing woman. "I already know all of your secrets."

"You don't have to if you don't want!"

"No." Talon cut her off. "You might as well know almost everything about me. After all, I know almost everything about you." He smiled at her before the Keeper of Secrets appeared next to them again. She carefully plucked off one of Talon's scales and placed it into the glass like pool of water. Then she glowed with a more intense light, ascended to join the glow worms at the top of the cave, and that was the last the two dragons ever saw of her.

The Night Furies attention was then drawn to the pool of glass, which started glowing with the same blue aura the Keeper of Secrets had.

"Don't get too close." Talon warned as he and Athena took careful steps closer to the pool. As they got closer, the glowing on the pool's surface disappeared until there was an outline of a shape on the pool. Suddenly, a blinding light exploded from the shape inside the pool, and what happened next left the dragons speechless.

\* \* \*

<p><strong>\*\*\*12 years ago\*\*\*</strong></p>

\_A 5 year old Night Fury followed behind his parents parents as they made their way through the forest. The wind blew through the leaves, seeming to whispering to the travellers. \_

\_"\_Are we there yet?" the 5 year old asked, running up to his parents and hopping onto his mother's back.\_

\_"\_Soon Talon." His mother said, adjusting her wings so the little black dragon wouldn't fall.\_

\_"\_Where are we even going?" Talon asked, pawing at one of the small spikes on his mother's back.\_

\_"\_Somewhere safe." His father answered.\_

\_The three Night Furies had fled their past life a week ago. Their town of merchants had been destroyed by the armies of Shakola. Talon didn't even know the name of the country they were from, but his father had said it didn't matter, because that country didn't exist anymore. Now, they flown to the forests north of Darkoba, at the border to the Legendary Mountains, where his parents were searching for something, or somewhere.\_

\_"\_Where are we going to be safe?" Talon asked. His mother laughed at her son's curiousness.\_

\_"\_\_You'll see." She said gently. Talon wanted to ask more, but the little dragon was tired from their long journey, and he fell asleep.\_

\_\*\*\*\* Line break\*\*\*\*\_

\_The small Night Fury was rudely awakened when he was jerked from his resting place and fell to the ground from his mother's back. Talon blinked his tired green eyes as his mother curled her tail around him protectively. Looking around, he saw his father growling at another Night Fury, a Monstrous Nightmare, and a Zippleback. \_

\_"\_\_Who are you?" The Night Fury said.\_

\_"\_\_We used to be merchants. Our home got destroyed, and we heard there was a safe place for dragons to stay somewhere around here." Talon's father said.\_

\_"\_\_Why don't you go to Darkoba or Shakola." one of the Zippleback heads said.\_

\_"\_\_Why wouldn't you go to one of the kingdom's that would guarantee your safety." the other said.\_

\_"\_\_Shakola is the country that destroyed ours, and because of the alliance, Darkoba won't accept us." Talon's mother said. Talon peeked out from behind his mother's tail, looking up at the three dragons talking to his parents.\_

\_"\_\_We just want a safe place for our son to be raised." His father said. The three dragons caught sight of Talon. \_

\_The Monstrous Nightmare nodded. "Follow us."\_

\* \* \*

><p><strong>\*\*\*2 years later10 years ago\*\*\*\*\*

\_Talon gazed at the fire burning in the centre of the huge cave everyone used as a common room. It had been two years since he and his parents had started living in the caves with the other dragons. There were a few other dragons his age, including Nakeya, Stuart, Zack, and another Night Fury called Tess. \_

\_Most of the dragons living in the caves were around the fire. Some of the older dragons, including the ones that had found Talon's family, and Talon's father were around another fire, discussing something that they wouldn't let the younger dragons hear.\_

\_"\_\_Can I go explore?" Talon asked, poking his mother with his tail.\_

\_"\_\_Okay." she said. "Just don't go to far."\_

\_Talon nodded and flew out of the caves, staying under the tree line. The wind whispered through the trees. Talon recalled what it had said to him the night before. That he would find a true friend. \_

\_Soon Talon left the forest and crossed the Courtner Plain, and then again into the forest. Finally Talon reached where he was going, a

cove in the forest that only he knew about. Since it was a cold night, he lit a fire, and was about to catch one of this fish in the pond when he heard someone approaching the cove. Moving silently, he flew over to a tree in the cove and hung upside down from one of the branches.\_

\_After a couple of seconds, another Night Fury about his age ran through the forest and almost fell over the cliff into the cove. The girl looked curiously at the cove and made her way down on one of the narrow paths. The new comer looked around the cove, not noticing Talon, and was about to eat an old fish when Talon decided to speak up.\_

\_"\_\_I wouldn't do that if I were you." He said. The little dragoness whirled around, looking at him surprised. Talon jumped off the tree and glided over to her. "It's got worms. You can tell because it's belly is bloated."\_

\_"\_\_Who are you?" The new dragon asked cautiously. Talon thought she was staring at him, but ignored it.\_

\_"\_\_Who are you?" He asked, smirking slightly.\_

\_"\_\_I asked you first." \_

\_"\_\_I asked you second!" He answered, smirking in amusement and laughing. "I'm Talon." he said. "What are you doing here?"\_

\_"\_\_What?" The girl asked, tilting her head in confusion.\_

\_"\_\_This is my cove. What are you doing here?" He asked again.\_

\_"\_\_Exploring." The little dragon answered.\_

\_"\_\_How did you get here? You can't see this place from the air." Talon asked, determined to get answers.\_

\_"\_\_Well, I was walking through the forest and I almost fell into this cove." she answered.\_

\_"\_\_Why'd you walk?" He said, looking at her weirdly. Why wouldn't she just fly. It'd be easier.\_

\_The dragoness looked at the ground, and seemed to be embarrassed. "I can't fly." she mumbled quietly.\_

\_Talon held in a laugh at such a strange sentence. It baffled him why a dragon his age couldn't fly. "Why not?" He said.\_

\_"\_\_I was never taught. I'm not supposed to leave home." The girl answered defensively.\_

\_"\_\_Why not? Where do you live?" Talon asked, now curious to know more about the mysterious girl that had found his cove.\_

\_"\_\_A place." she answered shortly, clearly not willing to give up information.\_

\_\_Ok. What's your name? I told you mine." Talon said.\_\_

\_\_Athena.\_\_

Talon widened his eyes. This was the princess of Darkoba. He started to bow.\_\_

\_\_Please don't. Everyone does that. You have no idea how irritating it gets." Athena said, looking slightly sad.\_\_

Talon stood straighter, and looked at her with interest, wanting to both know more about her and cheer her up. "So you're the princess of Darkoba?"\_\_

\_\_Yeah. It's not as fun as you think it might be. There are too many lessons and you always have to be perfect. You don't get to have a lot of freedom." She said, looking a tiny bit more sad.\_\_

\_\_Well what do you want to do?" Talon said, hoping that she would cheer up once she got to do something she wanted for fun.\_\_

\_\_Well, I'd really like to learn some fighting moves. Oh, and fly of course!" She said.\_\_

\_\_I can teach you that stuff!" Talon said happily.\_\_

\_\_Really?!" Athena said, looking over joyed at what he had said.\_\_

\_\_Yeah!"\_\_

So Talon taught her how to fly. And over the years, as Aleron and Felix trained him in different fighting styles, he passed on what he had learned to Athena. Over the years, they became closer and closer as friends.\_\_

\* \* \*

><p><strong>\*\*\*3 years later7 years ago\*\*\*\*\*

Talon sat in the cave, looking over the ocean. He'd just run. He'd run away. He didn't know what else to do though.\_\_

Less than an hour ago, he had gotten back from his meeting with Athena. Only to see all of the saddened faces of all of those who lived in the caves.\_\_

One of the lower tunnels had collapsed, trapping his parents inside. Before anyone could get to them, the cave had filled with water, and they had drowned.\_\_

Now, Talon and his little brother were alone. He didn't know what to do.\_\_

Getting up slowly, he took off and headed back to the caves. He couldn't hide forever. He had to take care of his brother. His parents would want him to be strong, he knew that. He couldn't stop living because of fear and sadness. He wouldn't.\_\_

\* \* \*

><p><strong>\*\*\*7 years later a few weeks ago.\*\*\*\*\*

\_Talon and Athena got had gotten back from a flight and practiced fight moves. The same as what usually happened when the friends met. But now she had to go, because the princess' parents would be suspicious if she was out to late.\_

\_"\_\_So I'll see you tomorrow then?" Talon asked her, even though he knew the answer.\_

\_"\_\_Definitely!" Athena said happily. "Oh, and one more thing."  
\_

\_"\_\_What?" Talon said, just before he was tackled to the ground. He looked up at a smiling Athena. \_

\_"\_\_I win!" she said happily. Then she flew off to her castle home.  
\_

\_Talon rolled over and watched her fly away. "You won years ago." he said quietly, wishing he had told her what he felt.\_

\* \* \*

><p><strong>\*\*\*back to the present\*\*\*<strong>

The image on the glass water disappeared. Athena and Talon stared at the disappearing glow on the water.

"You're entire country got destroyed." Athena said.

"Yeah." Talon said quietly.

"You parents died."

"Yes."

"But you're still soâ€¦!" Athena trailed off.

"Yeah, I know." Talon said. The two were silent for a few moments.

"You friend-zoned me for ten years!" Athena said.

"It was not ten years!" Talon said. "It was like four." Athena gave him a look. "Maybe five."

Athena rolled her eyes. And looked away. "So, what did you want to say to me while we were at the cove?"

Talon looked her in the eyes, using his tail to turn her head so she was facing him. "I love you." He said, bending down a bit and kissing her. Athena gladly kissed back, and would have been perfectly happy staying like that forever.

The two were broken apart when part of the wall of the cave opened, revealing another tunnel, but this one was shorter, and had a light at the end of it.

Talon smiled at Athena and walked over to the path. Athena followed, staying close enough to him so that their scales would brush together every now and then. Soon the two could see the ocean, and the shimmering on the horizon where the final island was appearing.

"That's it." Athena said, looking at the island. "We're almost there." The two of them took off and headed for the final island, the contain of youth, and what they thought would be the end of their adventure.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>\*\*\*with Tess and Finley\*\*\*<strong>

Tess and Finley watched as Talon and Athena flew to the island that had appeared in the near distance. "Do you think that's the last island?" Finley asked.

"I think so." Tess said. Finley nodded, following her as she flew up into the bottom of a cloud to avoid being seen by the two they were following.

"So now we go ambush them when we land on the island, kill Talon, and take Athena back to Darkoba where she's mine." Finley said, looking down evilly as the two dragons flying below neared the last island.

"No." Tess. "We should land and rest as well."

"What? We've been following them for days looking for a chance. This is our chance." Finley said.

"As much as I respect your eagerness, we've been in the air for a long time. If you want to fight Talon, you'll need your strength." Tess said.

Finley thought about what Tess said. When he thought about it, his wings were getting tired. And they needed to come up with a more detailed plan of attack. "Alright. We'll land where we can keep an eye on them. Nothing happens that I don't know about." Finley said. Tess nodded, and the two descended down to the final island. "We also need to come up with more of a plan than just attack." Finley continued. "He taught Athena to fight. If we just attack, we'll have to deal with both of them. We should get them separated."

"You need a distraction." Tess said. "I think I can replicate one of Zaltana's hallucinating spells. It'll take a couple of hours though."

"Good idea. Who are we giving that too?" Finley agreed.

"I was thinking that you could give it to Athena." Tess said, smirking evilly. "And leave Talon to me."

## 26. The Isle of Night

\*\*Sorry for such a long wait. I've been having a really busy life.

Ugh, life. Stop getting in the way of my writing. Anyway, funny story, I actually met someone named Finley a few weeks ago. But don't worry, he's nothing like this Finley. Anyways, hope you guys like the new chapter!\*\*

\* \* \*

><p>Athena and Talon landed on a small beach on the final island. The sand was cold and a stoney grey colour. A tropical forest shrouded in thick fog stood a few feet away from the waters edge. The fog moved, creating eerie shapes in the shadows of the trees. "So this is the Isle go Night?" Athena said.<p>

"Yep." Talon said. "Cheerful isn't it." Athena rolled her eyes.

"The Fountain of Youth is on this island, right? So I guess our only option is go to go in there." She said, pointing to the haunted looking forest. Talon nodded, and the two walked forward into the forest, disappearing into the mist.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>\*\*\*with Tess and Finley\*\*\*<strong>

Tess handed Finley a small vile filled with a purple liquid. "This is a hallucination potion. " she said. "What you need to do is find a way for Athena to ingest it, so that she'll hallucinate and get separated from Talon."

"How long will the hallucinations last?" Finley asked.

"About 15 minutes."

"And you're sure it will work?"

"Are you doubting my abilities. I'm the only reason that you made it this far. I'm the one that healed your injuries from the fight on Berkoshta. It'll work. Trust me." Tess said, turning to look at the fog filled forest in front of them.

Finley stood next to her, looking at the jungle. "Now all we need to do is find them."

\* \* \*

><p><strong>\*\*\*back with Athena and Talon\*\*\*<strong>

"We're lost." Athena stated as they walked through the jungle. The fog seemed to inch closer to them the longer they were there, and Athena could swear it looked like ghostly hands reaching out for their wings.

"We're not lost." Talon said. "We're just heading in an unknown direction."

"You have no idea where you're going, do you?"

"I know exactly where we're going." Talon said. "We're going to the fountain of youth."

"Really. And in which direction is the fountain." Athena said, stopping and giving Talon a look.

Talon looked back at her and thought for a minute. "This way." he said, turning slightly to the left of the direction they had previously been heading in.

Athena rolled her eyes and followed him. "Admit it. We're lost."

"We're not lost. We just don't know where we are."

"That's the same thing." Athena said, laughing at Talon's stubbornness. Rain drops fell from the sky and splashed against the leaves of the trees above them. "Oh great now it's raining."

"Do you're royal scales need to be sheltered from the rain, princess." Talon said, resting his wing on Athena's head so she couldn't see.

"That's not funny! I can't see!" Athena said, shoving his wing off. "Rain is fresh water right?"

"Yeah, why?"

"I'm thirsty." Athena answered, drinking some of the rain water. Unknown to her, Finley was in the trees watching them, and tipped the vile of potion so that Athena drank some of it. "Rain tastes weird." Athena said, oblivious to what happened.

Talon shook his head. "You're crazy."

"I'm not crazy!" Athena said, rolling her eyes yet again.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>\*\*\*Athena's POV\*\*\*<strong>

As we walked, I started feeling dizzy. My feet seemed to catch on roots, making me trip and stumble, but when I looked down there wasn't anything for me to catch y feet on. I shook my head, trying to get rid of the feeling. When I did, they world spun around, making me even more dizzy.

In the spinning I saw Talon, but his image was distorted. "Athena, are you okay?" a strange voice asked me. I looked around desperately, trying to see what was going on and who spoke to me.

My feet caught on invisible obstacles again and I almost fell. My head felt fuzzy. \_What's going on with me?\_

The person that I thought was Talon stepped towards me. "Athena?" I heard.

The fog around me reached towards me with ghostly hands. I could hear whispers of unfamiliar voices.

The images in the fog grew more and more strange. I ran through the forest, trying to get away from the strange creatures in the fog, but they followed me. I heard someone call my name, but I couldn't turn

back, fearing that an even scarier creature was chasing me.

I ran for what seemed like hours from the fog creatures until I fell. Instead of getting up, I just lay on the ground and closed my eyes, trying to make everything go away.

"Athena?"

Someone calls my name. I crack my eyes open. All the fog monsters are gone, and someone is standing near me.

"Athena? Are you okay?"

I look up, hoping to see that it's Talon. But Talon doesn't have sickly yellow eyes.

"Finley." I growl his name in disgust, getting up and backing away defensively. Standing so quickly makes me a bit dizzy, but I ignore it and focus on getting away.

"What do you think you're doing out here Athena?" Finley says with mock worry, even though he's eyeing me. I snarl at him. "It's dangerous out here. You could have gotten killed, had I not found you."

He steps towards me, and I step back, growling at him.

"Why don't you come back to the kingdoms?"

"Why should I? So I can be stuck in some castle again. So I can be forced into some arranged marriage that i don't want." I snarl back at him.

"You could be my queen." He says, stepping closer.

"I'd rather die."

"That can be arranged." He says angrily.

I laugh, mocking him. "Are we going to fight again, because I would love to beat you up a second time." I say. "Maybe this time I'll actually break you're wing."

Finley growled. "I can't fight you."

"Why not. To much of a coward."

He dug his claws into the ground. "No. I have to bring you back unharmed."

"Well good luck with that." I said, snarling at him one last time, before turning and disappearing into the forest in search of Talon.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>\*\*\*No POV\*\*\* \*\*\*with Talon\*\*\*<strong>

Talon crept through the foggy jungle, searching for Athena. The fog made her scent impossible to trace. "Athena!" he called

out.

"Talon?" he heard a feminine voice say. He turned around, and he was visibly disappointed and annoyed upon seeing Tess.

"What are you doing here?" He growled.

"I could ask you the same question." she said smoothly. "Where did Athena run off to? It can't be safe for her all alone on this island. Anyone could be here."

Talon eyes widened. "What did you do to her?!" he snarled.

"I don't know what you're talking about." Tess said innocently. "Now the way I see it, you have to options. Run off into the jungle in search of the princess, or stay here with me, and negotiate until I agree to tell you what happened and where she is."

"You're stalling." Talon said. "You're trying to buy time, so that I don't mess up whatever you have planned."

Tess smirked. "And what are you going to do about that."

Talon hesitated for a moment, then turned and ran through the jungle, calling for Athena.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>\*\*\*a while later\*\*\*<strong>

Talon continued through the jungle. It was getting dark and had started raining lightly, and he still hadn't found Athena. Leaping up in the trees, he tried to see further, but the jungle was too thick and all he could see was leaves. Then in the distance, he heard quiet talking.

"She's gone." Someone said. Talon growled silently when he saw that it was Finley.

"What do you mean she's gone?!" Tess hissed at him.

"She got away, and now she's somewhere in the forest."

"How did you let her get away?"

"You said not to hurt her until I brought her to you. I didn't know what else to do!"

"You could have just grabbed her. It's not like she's heavy!"

"She would have attacked me!"

"So?"

"And then I would have fought back!"

"You're an idiot!" Tess growled at him. "Well! Don't just stand there! Go find one of them!"

"Which one?"

"I don't care, just go!"

Finley disappeared through the trees again, and Tess did the same, travelling in a different direction. Talon thought about what to do. He could go back to wandering around the jungle looking for Athena, follow Tess and see what she was up to, or follow Finley, incase he found Athena before he did.

Talon decided to follow Finley. He wasn't sure what would happen if he found Athena first and didn't want to take any chances. And besides, he remembered their fight on Berkoshta, and he wanted a rematch.

## 27. The Fountain of Youth

Athena ran through the maze, fog blocking her vision beyond a few feet. The trees on the island split to make paths, but it was nearly impossible to cut through the forest. Athena kept running, and the path seemed to widen. She ran faster, hoping that she would find Talon somewhere. The path disappeared, the fog thinned, and Athena found herself in a clearing in the shape of a nearly perfect circle. In the centre of the clearing was a statue made of white stone, shaped like a dragon. Held in the dragon's stone claws was a bowl filled with water.

"The fountain of youth." Athena breathed. This is what they had been flying for so many days to find. She took a step closer, but stopped when she heard a vicious growl.

"Step any closer, and I'll kill you." Tess snarled. She glared at Athena, standing in the entrance to another path.

"What do you want?" Athena growled at her.

Tess glared at her. "You have no right to drink from that fountain."

"I don't remember asking for your permission."

"Well you can't. If someone of royal blood drinks from the fountain they'll die." Tess said.

"No they won't. Otherwise Talon wouldn't have brought me here." Athena retorted.

Tess paused, then just glared at Athena and growled. "You don't deserve to be a queen. I should have been born in your place. I should be the one getting immortality."

"What are you saying?" Athena asked warily.

"I want you dead."

\*\*\*\*\*with Talon\*\*\*\*\*

Talon wandered through the forest, looking for either Athena or Finley. The cold mist lapped around his legs as he stalked through the forest, not making a sound.

He heard a the snap of a branch a short ways ahead of him. Silently moving closer, he saw Finley. Growling, he circled the other dragon. Finley glared back at him.

"How did you follow us?" Talon demanded.

Finley snorted. "I happen to have an acquaintance who's a sorceress." He said smugly.

"You used magic?" Finley nodded. "That's cheating. You have no skill."

Finley snarled at him. "I have plenty of skill. I was trained by the best in the Shakola army."

"But you haven't used those skills for survival. They aren't what you depend on to live." Talon sneered. "You don't have any real skill. Otherwise I wouldn't have beaten you so easily." Finley growled at the remark. Talon just smirked and continued. "How did you even fly all the way here anyway? From what I saw, you were beaten up pretty badly." Finley snarled at him. "Oh wait, you're 'sorceress' friend probably healed you, didn't she?"

Finley snarled at him, but instead of attacking Talon, he turned and ran the other way. Talon ran after him, chasing him through the maze. He turned, ducking into a thinner patch of forest and disappearing in the mist.

Finley stopped and looked around, straining to see through the fog. "Come out you coward!" He yelled, searching the fog for his opponent.

Talon launched at Finley, tackling him to the ground. The two rolled over in the path, clawing and scratching at each other. Finley sank his teeth into Talon's shoulder.

Talon gave a sharp cry of pain, then he bit down on Finley ear, severing half of it off. He backed off and spit out blood as Finley shrieked in agony, blood dripping down his neck.

Talon fired a plasma blast at Finley's tail. Finley cried out more as a severe burn began forming on his tail. Finley desperately beat his wings at the air, flying away from his enemy.

"Coward!" Talon yelled at Finley as he flew away. Once the other dragon was out of sight, Talon turned his attention to the bite on his shoulder. The wound wasn't deep, but it was bleeding a lot, and Talon worried about it getting infected. Ignoring the trickle of blood that was dripping down his shoulder, he shook himself off and went to look for Athena.

\*\*\*\*\*with Athena\*\*\*\*\*

Athena jumped out of the way as a tree fell over, crushing the ground where she had been standing. She ran out towards the centre of the clearing, Tess snarling and slashing at her tail, close behind.

The two collided again, clawing at each other. Athena slashed at Tess's face, who growled in pain and bit her opponents arm. As the

two continued to fight, Athena gathered up her strength and pushed Tess at the rock behind them.

\*\*\*\*\*with Talon\*\*\*\*\*

Talon ran into the clearing just in time to see Tess' head snap back as she hit the rock. Her body slumped down into the ground, and sat motionless, her purple eyes loosing their colour.

Athena just stood in shock. "Is she dead?"

Talon noticed the water in the bowl and the once invisible mark on Athena's tail begin to faintly glow blue. "Athena, you're tail."

Athena still stared at Tess. "Did I do that?" She turned to look at Talon. "You're hurt!"

"Athena we don't have time for this, drink the water." Talon said, nudging her towards the fountain. Reluctantly Athena walked towards the statue.

"How much do you think I have to drink?" She asked, looking down at the clear blue water.

"I don't know. Just guess so we can get off this island." Talon said.

Athena bent down and lapped up some of the water. The mark on her tail started to glow more, becoming almost Bindingly bright. "What's happening?" She asked, staring at her tail. Soon the entire clearing was glowing, and the light engulfed them.

## 28. The Legendary MountainsEcrea

Athena blinked her eyes open to find herself flopped on top of Talon in a strange clearing surrounded by forest. They weren't anywhere near the Isle of Night anymore. In fact it looked a lot likeâ€|

"Darkoba." Athena whipped around to see two familiar red and blue Furies. Talon jumped at the voice too, dumping her on the ground next to him. "We're close, up not quite there. No welcome home yet for you." Phoenix spoke, smiling lopsidedly.

"How didâ€|" Talon starts to ask.

"The fountain water transported you too us after Athena drank it. Since you grabbed onto her, Talon, you were brought here too. It was programmed, shall we say, to deliver the Queen to her guides once she gained Immortality." Rain explained.

"Queen?" Athena inquired, looking bewildered.

"Yes. Queen. You've been promoted." Phoenix replied.

"So where exactly are we?" Talon asked.

"On the outskirts of the Legendary Mountains." Rain said. "We were

hoping to be back at the kingdom before you got here, but we had to go the long way. You're parents are pretty mad." She continued, nodding at Athena.

"And originally the magic in the water was supposed to bring you to Zaltana. We were worried that you'd ended up back on Berkoshta." Phoenix added.

"What does Zaltana have to do with this?" Athena asked.

"She was the one who put the magic in the water so she could help the new queen. We're her apprentices." Phoenix remarked. "Did we not mention that?"

"I though we mentioned that." Rain added. Athena and Talon looked between the two, confused. "We were told to help you get through the islands when you guys were flying to Berkoshta."

"Zaltana was supposed to go with you to Berkoshta and then fly back here, but that couldn't happen. We had to come back here before you drank the water. Otherwise we would have gone with you too the fountain." Phoenix explained. "We should get going, they're still patrolling the edges of the forest." Rain nodded and motioned for the two Night Furies to follow.

"Where are we going?" Athena asked after an hour of walking deeper into the forest. "And why can't we fly there?"

"We can't fly because both Darkoba and Shakola have patrols watching for you." Raine explained. "And we're going to Ecrea, which is your kingdom."

"I though Ecrea was just a myth." Talon said.

"No, my friend. Trust me, it is very real." Phoenix assured him. "And we're almost there."

The path turned into a steep uphill climb that the dragons flew up, close to the ground, instead of walked up. Once the path levelled out, the landed and the forest suddenly opened up to a huge clearing, housing a city made of white stone. At the otherwise of the clearing, set into the mountain, was a breathtaking palace of white stone shining in the sunlight.

"It's beautiful!" Athena gasped, staring in awe at the city. Talon nodded in agreement, also taking in the sight.

"Come on, we should hurry. Don't want to make a scene." Phoenix half-whispered, ushering the two through the stone streets. The four Night Furies hurried through the streets. By the time they climbed the steps to the castle doors, quite a few of the city's residents had noticed their presence.

"Why were they staring at me?" Athena asked when they were safely behind the doors. She had been thinking out loud agin, she realized, but just went with it.

"Because they've been waiting for you." Raine answered. "Some of them for over a century."

The castle was even more brilliant inside. Talon made a note to explore it more later, but it was getting late, so he figured she would just go with where Raine and Phoenix were taking them for now.

"Athena?" A voice called from the other end of the huge entrance hall.

"Uncle!" Athena cried happily as she ran over to Aleron and hugged him.

"I'm so glad your safe." He said.

Athena smiled. Then there was a series of high pitched cried of delight as Sari, Savannah, and Satin surrounded Athena and showered her with greetings and gratefulness that she was okay.

"Did anyone else make it here from the Caves?" Talon asked.

"The others that didn't go with you to Berkoshta made it here." Raine said.

"And the ones that did?"

"None of them have come back." Phoenix said solemnly.

"A few soldiers from Darkoba are here too. And a couple of deserters from Shakola." Raine said. Talon nodded.

"Tomorrow you'll have to meet some of the officials and leaders of the kingdom." Aleron told Athena.

"So soon? We just got here, can't we rest for a couple days?" Athena contested.

Aleron shook his head. "Darkoba and Shakola soldiers are getting closer everyday. I'm afraid that the issue cannot wait." Athena nodded in understanding. "You should go rest now though. You've had a long day, and you'll be busy tomorrow."

Satin, Sari, and Savannah brought Athena to a lavish bedroom worthy of royalty. Talon followed, refusing to leave Athena alone in the strange palace, and the two instantly fell asleep on the soft bed, exhausted from their long journey.

End  
file.